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BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
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Thirty-sixth Session, 1931

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GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

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3. Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE, Bar.-at-Law.
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BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Ali, Maulvi Hassan. [Dinajpur (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Maulvi Syed Nausher. [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Altaf. [Bogra (Muhammadan).]

B

Baksh, Maulvi Shaik Rahim. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Baksh, Maulvi Syed Majid. [Jessore North (Muhammadan).]
Bal, Babu Lalit Kumar. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bal, Mr. Sarat Chandra. [Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ballabh, Rai Bahadur Debendra Nath. [24-Parganas Rural North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerji, Mr. P. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerji, Rai Bahadur Keshab Chandra. [Dacca Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bannerjee, Babu Jitendralal. [Birbhum (Non-Muhammadan).]
Barma, Rai Sahib Panchanan, M.B.E. [Rangpur West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Basir Uddin, Maulvi Mohammed. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]
Basu, Babu Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Basu, Mr. Narendra Kumar. [Nadia (Non-Muhammadan).]
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Bose, Mr. S. M., Bar.-at-Law. [Calcutta East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bural, Babu Gokul Chand. [Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Burn, Mr. H. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

C

Chatterjee, Mr. B. C., Bar.-at-Law. [Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Babu Kishori Mohan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Dr. Jogendra Chandra. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Alimuzzaman. [Faridpur North (Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Hafizur Rahman. (Nominated Non-official.)

Chaudhuri, Maulvi Syed Osman Haider. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]
Choudhury, Maulvi Nural Absar. [Chittagong North (Muhammadan).]
Chowdhury, Haji Badi Ahmed. [Chittagong South (Muhammadan).]
Chowdhury, Maulvi Abdul Ghani, B.L. [Dacca West Rural (Muhammadan).]
Clark, Mr. I. A. (Indian Mining Association.)
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Coppinger, Major General W. V., C.I.E., D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.S.I., I.M.S. (Nominated Official.)
Cooper, Mr. C. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

D

Dain, Mr. G. R., C.I.E. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Das, Babu Satyendra Kumar. [Dacca City (Non-Muhammadan).]
Das, Rai Bahadur Kamini Kumar, M.B.E. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dash, Mr. A. J. (Nominated Official.)
Dutt, Rai Bahadur Dr. Haridhan. [Calcutta Central (Non-Muhammadan).]

E

Easson, Mr. G. A. (Nominated Official.)
Eusufji, Maulvi Nur Rahman Khan. [Mymensingh South-West (Muhammadan).]

F

Faroqui, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur K. G. M. [Minister.] [Tippera South (Muhammadan).]
Faweus, Mr. L. R. (Nominated Official.)
Faslullah, Maulvi Muhammad. [Noakhali West (Muhammadan).]
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

G

Gangali, Rai Bahadur Susil Kumar. (Nominated Official.)
Ghose, Dr. Amulya Ratan. [Howrah Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghose, Rai Bahadur Sasonka Comar, C.I.E. (Dacca University.)
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Gordon, Mr. A. D. (Indian Tea Association.)

Guha, Babu Profulla Kumar. [24-Parganas Municipal North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Guha, Mr. P. N. (Nominated Non-official.)
Gupta, Mr. J. N., C.I.E., M.B.E. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Gurner, Mr. C. W. (Nominated Official.)

H

Hakim, Maulvi Abdul. [Mymensingh Central (Muhammadan).]
Haque, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]
Hashemy, Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
Hoque, Kazi Emdadul. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]
Hosain, Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur. [Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan).]
Hossain, Maulvi Muhammad. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]
Huq, Khan Sahib Maulvi Bazlul. [Noakhali East (Muhammadan).]
Huq, Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]
Hussain, Maulvi Latafat (Nominated Non-official.)
Hutchings, Mr. R. H. (Nominated Official.)

K

Karim, Maulvi Abdul. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]
Kasem, Maulvi Abul [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali. [Pabna (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman, B.L. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]

L

Lal Muhammad, Haji. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]
Law, Mr. Surendra Nath. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Luke, Mr. N. R. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

M

Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)
Maiti, Mr. R. [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Marr, the Hon'ble Mr. A., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)
McCluskie, Mr. E. T. (Anglo-Indian.)
Miller, Mr. C. C. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Mittra, Babu Surat Chandra. [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan).]

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* Deputy President, Bengal Legislative Council.

Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder, KT., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)
Mookerjee, Mr. Syamaprosad, Bar.-at-Law. (Calcutta University.)
Mukherji, Rai Bahadur Satish Chandra. [Hooghly Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukhopadhaya, Rai Sahib Sarat Chandra. [Midnapore South-East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary. (Nominated Non-official.)

N

Nag, Babu Suk Lal. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]
Nag, Mr. K. C., M.B.E. (Nominated Official.)
Nag, Reverend B. A. (Nominated Non-official.)
Nandy, Maharaja Sris Chandra, of Kassimbazar. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.I.E. [Minister.] [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]
Norton, Mr. H. R (Calcutta Trades Association.)

O

Ormond, Mr. E. C. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

P

Philpot, Mr. H. C. V. (Nominated Official.)
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Poddar, Seth Hunuman Prosad. [Calcutta West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Prentice, the Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council.)

R

Raheem, Mr. A., C.I.E. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Maulvi Azizur. [Mymensingh North-West (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Mr. A. F. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur. [24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan).]
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Rai Mahasai, Munindra Deb. [Hooghly Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Khetter Mohan. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Babu Nagendra Narayan, B.L. [Rangpur East (Non-Muhammadan).]

Ray, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)
Ray, **Maharaja Jagadish Nath**, of Dinajpur. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray, Mr. Shanti Shekhareswar, M.A. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C. (Nominated Non-official.)
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Rout, Babu Hoseni. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Haribansa. [Howrah Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Jitendra Nath. [Jessore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Babu Satyendra Nath. [24-Parganas Municipal South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. D. N., Bar-at-Law. [Jessore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Saileswar Singh. [Burdwan North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Sarat Kumar. (Presidency Landholders.)
Roy, the Hon'ble Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh. [Minister.] [Burdwan South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy Choudhuri, Babu Hem Chandra. [Noakhali (Non-Muhammadan).]

S

Saadatullah, Maulvi Muhammad. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Sahana, Babu Satya Kinkar. [Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Salauddin, Mr. Khwaja. [Dacca City (Muhammadan).]
Samad, Maulvi Abdus. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]
Sarkar, Sir Jadunath, KT., C.I.E. (Nominated Non-official.)
Sarker, Rai Sahib Rebati Mohan. (Nominated Non-official.)
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Sen, Rai Sahib Akshoy Kumar. [Faridpur North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Shah, Maulvi Abdul Hamid. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
Singha, Mr. Arun Chandra. (Chittagong Landholders.)
Singh, Srijut Taj Bahadur. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan, of Nashipur. (Burdwan Landholders.)
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Smith, Mr. R. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]

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* President of the Bengal Legislative Council.

Stapleton, Mr. H. E. (Nominated Official.)
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Swan, Mr. J. A. L., C.I.E. (Expert, Nominated.)

T

Thompson, Mr. W. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Travers, Mr. W. L., C.I.E., O.B.E. [Rajshahi (European).]

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the Thirty-sixth Session.)

Volume XXXVI—No. 2.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE COUNCIL met in the Council Chamber in the Council House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 23rd February, 1931, at 3 p.m.

Present:

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja Sir MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, KT., of Santosh), in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers, and 99 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Legal Bar to District Court pleaders' carrying on trade or business.

***50. Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that there is a legal bar to the District Court pleaders being engaged in any other business in addition to their ordinary legal avocation?

(*b*) Is there any such restriction in the case of advocates?

(*c*) If there are no such restrictions in the case of advocates, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason for this differential treatment?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of removing this restriction at an early date, if necessary, by legislation?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice): (*a*) Under the rule framed by the High Court under section 6 of the Legal Practitioners Act, any pleader who shall enter into any trade or business shall give notice thereof to the High Court, who may suspend such pleader from practice or pass such orders as the Court thinks fit. Pleaders are allowed whilst continuing to practise to engage in such business as in the opinion of the Court is not derogatory to their profession or likely to interfere with the proper discharge of their duties.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Conditions in Calcutta differ from those in the mufassal.

(*d*) No.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that there are many advocates practising in the mufassal?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: No.

Mr. L. B. Burrows.

*91. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. L. B. Burrows, Magistrate and Collector, is now holding, or recently held, the post of Manager of the Kasimbazar Raj Wards' Estate?

(*b*) What allowance or pay, in addition to the salary of his rank as Magistrate and Collector, was Mr. Burrows drawing in his capacity as Manager of the Kasimbazar Raj Wards' Estate?

(*c*) Is it a fact that some time in June last Mr. Burrows was appointed as Magistrate and Collector of Mymensingh?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether during this period of holding office as Magistrate and Collector of Mymensingh Mr. Burrows was granted any honoraria in addition to his pay? If so, why?

MEMBER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) He was appointed Manager of the estate on a pay of Rs. 2,250 per month. The pay previously drawn by him as Magistrate-Collector was Rs. 1,700 per month.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Sanction has been given to the payment by the estate of a fee on account of certain work which he did for the estate while in Mymensingh.

Deduction from Budget grants.

*92. **Mr. NARENDRA KUMAR BASU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how much deduction has been made from the Budget grants under each head of expenditure;

(*ii*) how much has been deducted in the aggregate from—

(*1*) the Reserved subjects; and

(*2*) the Transferred subjects?

(*b*) Have the deductions from the Transferred subjects been made with the consent of the respective Ministers, or in spite of their protests?

MEMBER in charge of FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): (*a*) and (*b*) The proceedings of meetings of Government being strictly confidential, it is altogether against the public interest for Government to divulge anything that happens at such meetings and Government definitely decline to give any such information.

Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if decisions arrived at at such meetings are confidential?

The Hon'ble Mr. A MARR: I want notice of this question.

Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state, without disclosing the proceedings, what deduction has been made in the Reserved departments and in the Transferred departments under (*a*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: I have nothing to add to my answer.

Stipends for women in the training courses.

*93. **Mr. S. M. BOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*1*) the present number of Government stipends for women in the junior and the senior training courses;

(*2*) whether the Government are considering the question of increasing the number of such stipends;

(*3*) whether the course of training has lately been extended from one to two years;

(*d*) whether, as a consequence of this change, the stipends are now awarded for two years; and

(*e*) if the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of extending the stipends to two years?

MINISTER in charge of EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Nazimuddin): (*1*) 160.

(*2*) No.

(*3*) The course for junior training has been extended to two years.

(*4*) For the junior course, the existing stipends are now divided and allotted for two years.

(*5*) Does not arise.

Search of premises No. 33, Taltala Bazar Street.

***94. Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department aware—

(*i*) that in July last premises No. 33, Taltala Bazar Street, occupied by Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed, EX-M.L.C., and Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy, M.L.C., was searched by the Taltala Police without any warrant in the absence of the said occupants and several arrests were made;

(*ii*) that in course of the search all furniture, trunks, boxes, safes and tables were broken open and amongst other things dresses made of khadder, khadder pieces, national flags, photographs, some silver coins and documents were seized and removed;

(*iii*) that no search list was prepared in spite of protests;

(*iv*) that the articles seized and removed have not yet been returned to the owners; and

(*v*) that a letter was written to Sir C. A. Tegart, Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, by Maulvi Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy, M.L.C., to make an inquiry into the matter and to return the articles?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the articles seized have been confiscated?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of returning those articles to the owners?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice): (*a*) (*i*) The premises at No. 33, Taltala Bazar Street, were searched under a search warrant granted by the Chief Presidency Magistrate on 19th July, 1930. Nineteen persons who were in actual occupation of the house at the time of search were arrested.

(*ii*) Boxes, the keys of which were not found owing to the absence of the owners, were forced open by the police in execution of the warrant. No furniture was broken. The articles seized were exhibited in Court during the trials of some of the persons arrested.

(*iii*) Search lists were duly prepared in the presence of respectable witnesses. These lists were exhibited in Court in course of the trials.

(*iv*) The personal properties of the accused persons have all been returned to their respective owners and receipts obtained. The remaining articles which were exhibited in Court are within the seisin of the Court.

(*v*) A petition by Maulvi Jalaluddin Hashemy, M.L.C., for return of the articles seized was received by the Commissioner of Police, under whose orders an application was made to the trying Magistrate for directions regarding the property.

(*b*) The articles which have not been returned are within the seisin of the trial Court. Government are not aware of the orders, if any, passed by the Court in this matter.

(*c*) The articles are not in the possession of Government who are unable to take any action for their return by the Court.

Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: With reference to answers (*a*) (*v*) and (*iii*), may I take it that Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed and myself are the owners of the premises?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I want notice of this question.

Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*), may I know whether by the word "absence" the Hon'ble Member means that I was absent or Maulvi Shamsuddin Ahmed was absent?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I want notice of this question.

Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether my articles have been returned or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I want notice of this question.

Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether a photo is one of the incriminating documents?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I have no information.

Time and hour of auction sale in the Civil Courts of Bakarganj.

*95. **Maulvi MUHAMMAD HOSSAIN:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state at what time of the Court hour the auction sale commences in the Civil Courts of Bakarganj, particularly on Fridays?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: Auction sale commences in the Civil Courts in the district of Bakarganj generally between the hours of 12 noon and 1 p.m. daily. No special arrangement is made for Fridays.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that if on Fridays, when the Muhammadans are absent for saying their prayer, a sale takes place, it is not properly held?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I have already stated in the answer that no special arrangement is made for Fridays.

Hunger-strike among prisoners.

*96. **Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state the number of cases of hunger-strike among prisoners in different jails in Bengal during the last six months?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL (JAILS) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): It is difficult to answer this question accurately for when the prisoners are confined in association it is not possible to ascertain with certainty whether individual prisoners are actually taking no nourishment. The number of prisoners who on their own statement were supposed to have been on hunger-strike during the last six months in different jails in Bengal was 513. Of these only 10, according to their own statement, were on hunger-strike for a period exceeding 10 days.

Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether he visited any jail to inquire into the causes of any hunger-strike?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: No.

Mr. NARENDRA KUMAR BASU: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether when prisoners are confined in association, food is supplied to them individually?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Food is available to them.

Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the prisoners include any lady prisoners?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I want notice of this question.

Mosquito nets to prisoners.

*97. **Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state why the use of mosquito curtains is not introduced in the Bengal jails especially in malarial districts?

(*b*) Is it a fact that for financial reasons the Government are unable to provide mosquito curtains for prisoners?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government have any objection to friends and relations of the prisoners supplying mosquito curtains to such prisoners?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of issuing necessary instructions to the officers concerned in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) and (*b*) The provision of mosquito nets is one of the measures to reduce malaria among the prison population which are at present under examination and trial in conjunction with the Public Health Department. Generally it may be said that an experiment with nets in the Pabna jail was very inconclusive as to the beneficial results on health. Demands from ordinary prisoners for nets are not often made and measures to prevent mosquito breeding in the vicinity of the jail may be found more effective. Nets are allowed to Divisions I and II

prisoners and in hospital, but for financial reasons Government do not feel justified in incurring the expense of supplying net for all prisoners, until the benefit of so doing has been more conclusively established.

(*c*) Government are prepared to give the suggestion a trial.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. NARENDRA KUMAR BASU: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how long this measure has been under trial?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: More than two years. Dr. Bentley is definitely of opinion that prevention of mosquito breeding in the vicinity of jails is cheaper and more effective.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is an established fact of medical science that malaria is due to mosquito bites?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: So far as I know it is so.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: May I know the reason for this experiment with mosquito nets in certain jails proving inconclusive?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Because in the opinion of the public health expert it was considered that the prevention of mosquito breeding would be more effective.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: How long this measure had been under trial?

Mr. PRESIDENT: That has already been answered.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: Is it a fact that many people in jail are attacked with malaria and die?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Very much less than the ordinary population of Bengal.

Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if the use of mosquito curtains in Pabna jail actually led to an increase of malaria?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I take it as a joke and Sir Provash need not take it seriously. (Laughter.)

Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if Pabna jail is the only place where the experiment was made or was it made in any other place?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Speaking, subject to correction, I think it was made only in Pabna jail.

Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE: Is the mosquito theory dying with the departure of Dr. Bentley from India?

(No answer.)

Filing plaints with deficit court-fee.

*88. **Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department been drawn to the—

(*i*) inability of the people to meet the costs of litigation owing to the prevailing acute economic distress; and

(*ii*) fall in court-fee revenue?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in many districts of Bengal a large number of plaints, petitions and memoranda of appeals which were filed with deficit court-fee were struck off owing to the failure of parties to file the balance of court-fees in time?

(*c*) Is it a fact that this has caused loss to the parties as also to the Government?

(*d*) Is it a fact that in most cases the courts are unwilling and unable to accommodate the parties by granting sufficient time for filing deficit court-fees in the absence of definite instructions from the High Court or the Government?

(*e*) If the answers to (*a*) to (*d*) are in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of giving adequate relief, in consultation with the Hon'ble High Court?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: (*a*) (*i*) No complaint has been received.

(*ii*) It is likely that there will be a slight fall in the court-fee revenue.

(*b*) and (*c*) The Government have no such information.

(*d*) No, so far as Government are aware. In any case under the law it is the Courts which have the discretion.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: With reference to answers (*b*) and (*c*), will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if he took any pains to get the information?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: We have not had inquiries made in all the districts, but no District Judge has submitted a report to that effect.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: Is it not the duty of the Hon'ble Members to make an inquiry to get the real facts?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I do not allow that question.

3-15 p.m.

Persons convicted and detained for offences of a political nature.

***99. MUNINDRA DEB RAI MAHASAI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of persons, adult male and female, boys and girls, convicted in Bengal from April to December, 1930,—

(*1*) under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930.

(*2*) under each of the Ordinances; and

(*3*) under other special laws, if any, for dealing with political offenders?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table another statement showing for the aforesaid period the number of persons convicted—

(*i*) for committing violence against the State; and

(*ii*) for non-violent civil resistance?

(*c*) What was the expenditure incurred in conducting prosecutions referred to in (*b*)?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the number of persons, male and female, detained at present in—

(*i*) the Buxa Fort;

(*ii*) the Hijli Jail;

(*iii*) the Dum-Dum Jail; and

(*iv*) the Alipore Central Jail?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice): (*a*) (*1*) Two adult males have been convicted under the provisions of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930. The number of persons detained under that Act is 414.

(*2*) and (*3*) The information is not available and cannot be compiled without a laborious examination which Government regret they are not prepared to undertake.

(*b*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*c*) *Vide* (*a*) (*2*) and (*3*) above.

(*d*) (*i*) 141 under Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930, all male.

(*ii*) Under Ordinances and special laws, nil.

(*iii*) There are 291 male prisoners in Dum-Dum Special Jail who have been convicted for offences in connection with civil disobedience movement.

(*iv*) There are 127 male prisoners in Alipore Central Jail who have been convicted for offences in connection with the civil disobedience movement.

Incident at Chinsura maidan in May, 1930.

***100. MUNINDRA DEB RAI MAHASAI:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 46(*a*) on the 13th August, 1930, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many policemen received injuries from bricks thrown at them; and

(*ii*) how many of them were treated in the hospitals?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the nature of the injuries sustained by policemen as entered in the hospital register?

(*c*) Was the Magistrate hit?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the nature of his injuries as entered in the hospital register?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason which led the Magistrate to declare the meeting unlawful?

(*f*) Is it a fact that the officer in charge of the police-station refused to receive any complaints against the police made by some passers-by who received *lathi* blows at the hands of the police?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many persons were prosecuted for joining or continuing in an unlawful assembly knowing it to have been lawfully commanded to disperse under section 145 or section 151 of the Indian Penal Code; and

(*ii*) how many persons were prosecuted under section 152 of the Indian Penal Code for assaulting public servants with bricks?

(*h*) If no persons were prosecuted, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*i*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that a non-official committee was formed to inquire into the incident?

(*j*) Have the Government received any report of the Inquiry Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: (*a*) (*i*) Thirteen policemen received injuries from bricks thrown at them; and

(*ii*) all of them were treated in the hospital.

(*b*) An extract from the hospital register is attached showing the nature of the injuries sustained by policemen.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) The conduct and attitude of the people was threatening and bricks were being thrown. The Deputy Superintendent of Police and a sub-inspector were hit. As a serious breach of the peace was apprehended the Magistrate declared the crowd an unlawful assembly.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) (*i*) Three persons were prosecuted under section 145, Indian Penal Code.

(*ii*) None.

(*h*) The police force was too small to be able to make many arrests.

(*i*) No.

(*j*) No.

Extract from the hospital register referred to in the reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 100.

No. 174.

Examined the following constables and found the following injuries on their person:—

Constable No. 834 Ram Dhar Singha.—Two very small scratch marks on left little finger on its back—slight friction with hard substance.

Constable No. 295 Sahebuddin.—One abrasion $\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$ on the left foot—slight friction with hard and blunt substance.

Constable No. 152 Gangadin Kurmi.—Complains of pain in scalp, no visible mark of injury.

Constable No. 145 Mahadeo Upadhaya.—One linear abrasion 1" on the right knee—slight friction with hard and blunt substance.

Constable No. 284 Ram Kissen Ram.—One abrasion $1'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$ about 2 inches below right ankle—slight friction with hard and blunt substance.

Constable No. 156 Lokenath Roy.—Complains of pain on right thigh, no visible mark of injury.

Constable No. 359 Sital Prosad Thakur.—One abrasion $\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$ on the inner malleolus—slight friction with hard and blunt substance.

Constable No. 1072 Md. Habib Khan.—Complains of pain in left shoulder, no visible mark of injury.

Constable No. 251 Dharani Singh.—(1) One contusion $\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$ on the tip of right middle finger—slight friction with hard and blunt substance. (2) Three small abrasions on the right knee slight friction with hard and blunt substance. (3) One small abrasion of left leg near ankle—slight friction with hard and blunt substance.

Constable No. 1023 Mhd. Hossain.—One small abrasion on the back $\frac{1}{2}'' \times \frac{1}{2}''$ on the right side—slight friction with hard and blunt substance.

Constable No. 688 Ramgati Missir.—One contusion $\frac{1}{2}''$, circular, with small abrasion on the top about an inch above the right elbow posteriorly—slight friction with hard and blunt substance.

Constable No 1159 Jagadish Dubey.—Complains of pain on the scalp, no visible mark of injury.

22nd May, 1930—10 a.m.

These injuries are said to have been caused by brickbats being thrown against them. This is possible.

IMAMBARAH HOSPITAL,
21st May, 1930—8-30 p.m.

Sd. K. B. B.

MUNINDRA DEB RAI MAHASAI: With reference to answer (*c*) will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when did the conduct and the attitude of the people become threatening and bricks thrown? Was it before or after the meeting?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I suppose it was contemporaneous.

Appointment of Mr. D. C. Ghose and Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan in the Calcutta Improvement Trust Tribunal.

***101. Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether any advertisement was published in the newspapers inviting application from candidates in connection with the appointment of Mr. D. C. Ghose and Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan as President and an Assessor, respectively, of the Calcutta Improvement Trust Tribunal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of the persons who applied for the posts or whose claims were considered in filling up the vacancies; and

(*ii*) the present salary and other emoluments attached to the posts?

MINISTER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) No; these appointments are not advertised.

(*b*) (*i*) Government do not think it desirable to give particulars of candidates who submitted applications or were otherwise considered but not appointed.

(*ii*) President—Rs. 2,750 per mensem, Member—Rs. 150 per diem when Court sits *plus* retaining fee of Rs. 100 per mensem.

Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps were taken to secure the best qualified man?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: According to Government the man appointed was the best man.

Reverend B. A. NAG: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. D. C. Ghose, who has been appointed as President of the Tribunal, was an Assessor of the Tribunal for the last 10 years?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes.

Reverend B. A. NAG: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan, who has been appointed as an Assessor was an officiating Assessor for many months past?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: He was elected by the Calcutta Corporation in place of Mr. Haldar who was ill in 1928.

Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not giving the particulars of the candidates who applied for the post?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I think it is not fair to candidates to supply these informations when they were not appointed.

Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for not advertising for such a highly paid post?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is not the practice of Government to advertise such posts.

Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Is the appointment in the hands of local Government or in that of the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is in the hands of local Government.

Revision of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884.

*102. **Mr. S. M. BOSE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is not a fact that there is a widespread demand for the immediate and thorough revision of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884;

(*ii*) whether the late Sir Surendranath Banerjea, when Minister in charge of Local Self-Government, contemplated a revision of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of taking in hand an up-to-date revision of the Act?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) It is recognised that the Act requires revision but there has not been much evidence in recent years of any urgent demand for immediate action.

(*ii*) A Bill was introduced by the late Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea in 1925 but was rejected at the first reading.

(*b*) A Committee has been appointed to advise on the amendment of the Bengal Municipal Act.

Babu SATYENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, when the Committee was constituted, the special needs and requirements of the suburban municipalities were taken into consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No, Sir. It is not taken into consideration.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Committee has been sitting of late?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The Committee has not yet met.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when is it going to sit?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The date has not yet been fixed.

Certificate cases in Rangpur.

***103. Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate, Rangpur, passed orders for decentralisation of certificate cases from the Rangpur Sadar in 1929 at the desire of the Divisional Commissioner to relieve congestion of such cases at the Sadar?

(*b*) Is it a fact that those orders were cancelled afterwards?

(*c*) Is it a fact that a petition was made by a large number of tenants and the then Subdivisional Officer of Kurigram forwarded the petition to the District Magistrate with recommendation for the transfer of the certificate cases from the Sadar to the subdivisions?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what orders, if any, were passed by the District Magistrate on the said petition?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that a deputation of the tenants waited upon the Hon'ble Member, Board of Revenue, Bengal, who came on tour to Rangpur in November, 1930, last and laid their

grievances before him praying for immediate decentralisation of certificate cases from the Rangpur Sadar and that the said Hon'ble Member assured the deputation that he would try to redress their grievances?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, have since been taken to give effect to the assurances of the Hon'ble Member?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) Yes, orders were passed as a temporary measure.

(*b*) Yes, the temporary orders were cancelled as the subdivisional officers expressed their inability to do the extra certificate work in addition to their existing duties unless extra officers were posted to those stations. After centralisation of certificate work at Sadar the Divisional Commissioner vested another officer at Sadar with certificate powers.

(*c*) Yes, the Subdivisional Officer, Kurigram, recommended it on the condition that an extra certificate officer should be posted at Kurigram.

(*d*) The Collector decided that the present arrangement was the only feasible one. The Divisional Commissioner also looked into the question and held that the existing arrangement should continue.

(*e*) Yes, the representatives of the tenants were told that the question whether there were any real grievances would be looked into.

(*f*) As he found that there were no real grievances, no action was considered necessary.

Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether all the subdivisional officers declared their inability to do certificate work?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I believe so.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the doing of the extra certificate work depends upon the discretion of the subdivisional officer concerned?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I should think not. It depends on the amount of work.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the commencement of the certificate work at the Sadar-Rangpur has been notified to the tenants?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Yes.

Certificate office at Rangpur, Sadar.

*104. **Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member i charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many extra hands have been appointed in the Court o the Certificate Officer at the Rangpur Sadar on account o the certificate cases of the Kasimbazar Raj Wards' Estat for the year 1930-31; and

(*ii*) how many clerks would have been required for the same worl in case of decentralisation, i.e., distribution of certificat cases from Sadar to subdivisions?

(*b*) If the number of extra hands in the latter case were less, wil the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why the economic aspect o the matter has been lost sight of?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) (*i*) No extra clerk has been appointed solely on account of the certificate cases of the Kasimbazar Wards' Estate, since the number is less than would justify the appointment of an extra clerk.

(*ii*) No extra clerk would have been required owing to the transfer of the cases to the subdivisions.

(*b*) It has not been lost sight of.

Extension of time for payment of revenue.

*105. **Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state in how many cases an extension of time was granted for the payment in full of amount of revenue during the last September and January *kists*?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of such persons or the estates where the time has been allowed in each case with reasons thereof?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) Government are not aware that extension of time has been granted in any case in which there is no legal bar to sale except that, in accordance with the ordinary practice, estates are not ordinarily advertised for sale if the arrears are petty, nor sold if the arrears are paid before the time of sale which is usually two to three months after the latest date of payment.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation from the landlords for deferring payment of land revenue?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I want notice.

Road and public works cesses collection in the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions.

*106. **Rai Sahib AKSHOY KUMAR SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the actual collection of road and public works cesses in each of the districts of the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions (except the district of Darjeeling) during the years 1928, 1929, 1930 and up to the January *kist* of 1931?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: A statement showing the collections of cesses in the districts referred to, for the years 1928-29, 1929-30 and 1930-31 up to January *kist*, is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. 106, showing collection of road and public works cesses.

District.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31 up to January kist.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Dacca	3,34,165	3,26,095	2,11,098
Mymensingh ...	6,74,170	6,25,356	4,19,861
Bakarganj	4,80,785	1,97,209	4,05,963
Faridpur	2,49,807	2,45,283	1,73,701
Chittagong	2,52,728	2,56,375	1,99,857
Tippera	3,26,633	3,11,450	2,30,952
Noakhali	2,31,768	2,51,599	1,67,534*
Rajshahi	3,44,405	3,30,075	2,24,007
Dinajpur	3,16,045	2,94,895	1,97,240
Jalpaiguri	2,49,706	2,60,161	1,87,043
Rangpur	4,79,298	5,26,131	2,44,101
Malda	1,71,823	1,74,864	1,29,191
Pabna	1,70,976	2,23,395	1,83,001
Bogra	1,32,945	1,43,881	1,18,466

* Does not include cess payable to the district board in respect of estate managed direct by Government.

Rai Sahib AKSHOY KUMAR SEN: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason for the fall in the collection of cesses during 1930 up to January, 1931?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I can only guess but I cannot say definitely. If my surmise is correct, I think it is due to general depression.

Namasudra clerks in Civil Courts in the Dacca Division.

*107. **Rai Sahib AKSHOY KUMAR SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing district by district, for the years 1927, 1928 and 1929—

(*i*) how many clerks were appointed in the Civil Courts within the Dacca Division; and

(*ii*) how many of them belong to the Namasudra community?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of appointing more Namasudra clerks in the Civil Courts than in previous years?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: (*a*) (*i*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*ii*) None.

(*b*) No. The appointment of ministerial officers in Civil Courts rests with the District Judge under sections 30 and 31 of the Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts Act, 1887. Government have no doubt that the District Judges take into consideration the claims and qualifications of all candidates before making their selection, but they will bring this question and the answer to the notice of the District Judges concerned.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 107, showing the number of clerks appointed during 1927, 1928 and 1929 in the Civil Courts within the Dacca Division.

Name of district.	No. of clerks appointed during 1927.	No. of clerks appointed during 1928.	No. of clerks appointed during 1929.	Total.
Dacca	13	6	6	25
Mymensingh	7	11	6	24
Faridpur	7	2	4	13
Bakarganj	8	4	4	16

Proceedings against Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy in the Jessore Criminal Court.

*198. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that proceedings under section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code were drawn up against Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy, M.L.C., in the Criminal Courts of Jessore some time in the month of July last?

(*b*) Is it a fact that these proceedings were withdrawn on the 5th of January last?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons why the proceedings were withdrawn after being kept pending for over 6 months?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that during the pendency of these proceedings Mr. Hashemy had often to go to Jessore to stand his trial even when suffering from great physical illness?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: (*a*) Proceedings were drawn up in August, 1930.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Because the situation improved and Mr. Hashemy took no further part in political meetings in Jessore.

(*d*) He appeared on 10th September and 12th November, on both of which occasions at his instance an adjournment was allowed on account of illness. Subsequently he appeared on the 4th December and 5th January.

Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the said Syed Hashemy did take part in any meeting in Jessore during the last five years?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I must ask for notice.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware whether the act of Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy constituted a political offence?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: It was for the Court to decide.

Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the then Superintendent of Police, Mr. Ellison, was an illiterate or a literate man?

(No answer.)

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Member l pleased to state whether the Government did give sanction to prosecute

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I must ask for notice.

Badshahi Road.

*109. **Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minist in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to stat in so far as the present Presidency of Bengal is concerned whethe there was a Badshahi Road 120 feet wide leading from Gaur to Puri

(*b*) Is it a fact that lands about 55 feet wide from either side an alongside of the Badshahi Road have been resumed and leased ou to tenants?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'bl Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) by whom,

(*ii*) under what authority,

(*iii*) at what rent, and

(*iv*) under what conditions

the said lands have been leased out?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: A statement is laid on the table giving information in tabular form obtained from districts through which the road passes.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. 109.

Name of district.	(a)	(b)	(c)(i)	(c)(ii)	(c)(iii)	(c)(iv)
Burdwan ..	Yes; the exact width not definitely recorded any where for all the parts	In some places the surplus side lands have been leased out to tenants leaving sufficient for the road proper as well as for borrow pit for road repairs.	By the district board.	Under general powers vested in the district board and following the old practice of Government as regards Grand Trunk Road.	At a rent of about Rs. 300 annual for 11 miles in one portion.	Under registered kabuliyat for five years on the following conditions:— (1) If rent is not paid it may be realized by certificate. (2) Lessee will not build any permanent structure on the land. Temporary sheds if built will be removed by lessee at the end of the period of lease. (3) Lessees will have no right over trees if planted by them. (4) After 5 years the lessee will have to vacate the land.
Birbhum ..	A portion of the Badshahi Road about 12 miles in length lies in the district of Birbhum. Its width is about 120 feet.	There are sidelands of about 40 feet wide on either side of the Birbhum portion of the Badshahi Road. Government is the proprietor of the side-lands which have not been resumed by any authority or leased out to tenants.	The question does not arise	...	...	...

Name of district.	(a)	(b)	(c)(i)	(c)(ii)	(c)(iii)	(c)(iv)
Hooghly	There is a Badshahi Road from Gaur to Puri locally known as Uchalan-Midnapore Road. It enters Hooghly district at 5th mile where it crosses the river Darakeswar. 15 miles of road length are in this district. Average width 40 feet.	There is no record to show that the land was leased out by anybody. Side-land on record of district board is 123 acres and is in possession of the district board, Hooghly	The question does not arise			
Murshidabad	There is a road in this district known as Badshahi Road which passes through this district and joins the Grand Trunk Road in Burdwan district. It is not known whether this is a part of the alleged Badshahi Road which is stated to start from Gaur and terminate at Puri. The width varies from 30 feet to 180 feet; but mainly it is approximately 100 feet wide.	It is a fact that in some places of this road some portions of the side-lands have been let out to tenants under special circumstances, viz., in most cases the side lands were in occupation of the tenants of mahals adjoining the side lands. Ejectment suits were instituted, but as it was found impossible to prove that the lands encroached upon appertain to this road amicable settlement had to be made with the occupiers and zemindars of the adjoining mahals by which the tenants and landlords recognised the proprietary rights of the board and the board gave up its right of eviction by accepting rents.	By the district board.	Under the authority of the district board.	About 44 acres let out to tenants for which district board gets an annual rent of Rs. 104-5-9.	The tenants hold the lands as occupancy raiyats.

Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the rates realised up to 1930?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I must ask for notice.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Carishât Road.

80. Mr. C. C. COOPER: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether the Garishât Road is notified by Government under section 74 of the Local Self-Government Act as being the care and responsibility of the 24-Parganas district board?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by Government to give practical effect to such notification?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the attention of Government has been repeatedly drawn to the appallingly bad state of the Garishât Road with the request that Government do take action against the district board to insist upon their compliance with the notification under section 74 of the Local Self-Government Act?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for not taking any action in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The road was maintained by the district board for many years, but has recently been neglected.

(*c*) and (*d*) Representations have been received and the attention of the Commissioner was drawn to the notification. It is understood that some urgent repairs have been done, but the condition of the road is still far from satisfactory, and the position is being further considered.

Prevention of tubercular diseases.

81. Dr. AMULYA RATAN GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to educate the countrymen in the matter of prevention of tubercular diseases?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: A scheme put forward by the Tuberculosis Association of Bengal for conducting propaganda work against tuberculosis was administratively approved by Government who proposed to make a grant towards the cost, but it has not been possible to provide funds for the purpose in the present financial condition. If this improves, Government will consider the claims of this scheme along with those of other approved schemes awaiting provision of funds.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was the scheme put forward by the Tuberculosis Association approved by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I must ask for notice.

Ministerial officers in the Bakarganj Collectorate.

62. Maulvi MUHAMMAD HOSSAIN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state how many appointments of ministerial officers in the Bakarganj Collectorate were made during the last ten years?

(*b*) How many of them are Muhammadans and how many Hindus?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) 69 appointments.

(*b*) 39 Muhammadans; 30 Hindus and Brahmos.

Recruitment of Sub-Registrars from the Tangail and Jamalpur subdivisions.

63. Maulvi AZIZUR RAHMAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration) Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing from the year 1921 to 1929 the respective figures of the—

(*1*) Hindu, and

(*2*) Muhammadan

Sub-Registrars taken from the Tangail and Jamalpur subdivisions of the Mymensingh district?

MINISTER in charge of EDUCATION (REGISTRATION) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khawaja Nazimuddin): A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 63 showing the number of Hindu and Muhammadan Sub-Registrars appointed during the period from 1921 to 1929 from among the residents of the Tangail and Jamalpur subdivisions of the district of Mymensingh.

Year.	Hindu.	Muhammadan.
1921	1	1
1922	Nil	Nil
1923	Nil	Nil
1924	Nil	1
1925	Nil	Nil
1926	Nil	2
1927	1	Nil
1928	Nil	Nil
1929	Nil	Nil

Cases instituted under section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act in Khulna Collectorate.

64. Mr. MUKUNDA BENARY MULLICK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the number of cases instituted under section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act before the last amendment of that Act in the Court of the Collector and Subdivisional Officers of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat in 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1929?

(*b*) Were the cases contested and, if so, up to what stage?

(*c*) What were the results of those cases?

(*d*) How many of those cases have been disposed of?

(*e*) How many of them are still pending?

(*f*) If any of these are still pending, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason?

(*g*) When were these cases, which are still pending, filed?

(*h*) Are not these cases of a summary nature?

(*i*) Is it not the intention of the Government that these cases should be speedily disposed of?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER:

(*a*)

	Sadar.	Bagerhat.	Satkhira.
1926	3	...	...
1927	25	2	...
1928	25	...	128
1929	23	...	22
	76	2	150

(*b*) Most of the cases were contested up to the last stage.

(*c*)

	Sadar.	Bagerhat.	Satkhira.
Allowed	51	2	89
Rejected	24	...	3
Struck off	1	...	52
Withdrawn	...	...	6
	76	2	150

(*d*) All.

(*e*) None.

(*f*), (*g*), (*h*) and (*i*) Do not arise.

Jalpaiguri (Moslem) Girls' Home.

65. Maulvi NASSAN ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what sum of money was granted to the Jalpaiguri (Moslem) Girls' Home towards the construction of the Home's building; and

(*ii*) whether the money was actually given to the Home authorities?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) Government have no information about the Jalpaiguri (Moslem) Girls' Home. It is not clear if the member refers to the hostel which is under construction for the accommodation of the Moslem pupils of the Jalpaiguri Girls' High English School. A grant of Rs. 16,462 for the construction of a new school building and the Moslem hostel has been sanctioned by Government.

(*ii*) The first instalment of Rs. 8,231 out of the sanctioned grant of Rs. 16,462 for both the school and the hostel has been paid to the authorities of the Jalpaiguri Girls' High English School.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Hindu widows in the Ranchi Mental Hospital.

66. Dr. AMULYA RATAN GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last five years ending 1930—

(*i*) how many Hindu widows have been admitted from Bengal into the Ranchi Mental Hospital;

(*ii*) how many of the widows come from respectable families and the caste of such widows;

(*iii*) what is the occupation of the respective guardians of at least 20 of these widows;

(*iv*) whether any of them were cured? If so, how many?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*i*) 21.

(*ii*) I have no information as to their status, beyond the fact that two patients are described as Brahman and one as Kayastha.

(*iii*) In the only cases in which this information can be ascertained the occupations of the guardians traced are those of contractor, land-owner and service.

(*iv*) Ten were discharged as cured.

Age-limit in appointing medical officers.

67. Maulvi ABOUL CHANI CHOWDHURY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether there is any age restriction in appointing medical officers?

(*b*) If so, has it been strictly followed during the last five years?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) A copy of item 15(*i*) (Bengal Medical Service—Upper) in the Provincial Service Recruitment Rules is laid on the table.

(*b*) The discretion allowed in the Note to this rule has been exercised in ten cases.

Copy of item No. 15 (i) referred to in clause (a) of the answer to unstarred question No. 67.

Service.	*Qualifications.*
15. Bengal Medical Service (Upper).	(i) *Age.*—Candidates over 28 years of age are not ordinarily eligible for appointment.

NOTE. Subject to the provisions of rule V (2) (*a*) a relaxation of this restriction may be made in the case of candidates possessing exceptionally high or special professional or technical qualifications.

Muhammadan ministerial officers in the Civil and Criminal Courts in the Bakarganj district.

68. Maulvi MUHAMMAD HOSSAIN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether the number of Muhammadan officers in the ministerial upper and lower grades in the civil and criminal courts in the district of Bakarganj are in proportion to the percentage fixed by Government?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that not a single post in the upper grade has for the last ten years been offered to any Muhammadan?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Member also aware that suitable Muhammadan candidates are available?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the present number of ministerial clerks, both Hindu and Muhammadan, separately, in the civil and criminal courts in the district of Bakarganj?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how many appointments of ministerial officers in the civil and criminal courts in Bakarganj were made during the last 10 years and how many of them are Muhammadans and how many Hindus?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: (*a*) In the criminal courts the percentage has been attained, but not so in the civil courts.

(*b*) It is not a fact. Two were appointed during the last 10 years—one in the civil and one in the criminal courts.

(*c*) There may be suitable candidates, but seniority has also to be taken into account.

(*d*) and (*e*) The statements are laid on the table.

Statements referred to in the reply to clauses (d) and (e) of unstarred question No. 68.

PRESENT NUMBER OF MINISTERIAL OFFICERS IN THE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS.

	Muhammadan.	*Non-Muhammadan.*
Civil	35	124
Criminal	70	125

NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS IN THE CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COURTS DURING LAST 10 YEARS.

	Muhammadan.	*Non-Muhammadan.*
Civil	16	28
Criminal	39	30

Malaria in Arambagh town.

69. Rai Bahadur SATISH CHANDRA MUKHERJI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department aware—

(*i*) that Arambagh town is malarious and very insanitary;

(*ii*) that the officers and the people of the place are always in danger of their health; and

(*iii*) that the resources of the local municipality are inadequate for anti-malarial measures?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability of—

(*i*) making a grant to enable the municipal authorities to start and carry on anti-malarial measures; and

(*ii*) posting permanently a sanitary officer at that place as a special case?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) As in statement annexed.

(*ii*) There is the same risk to personal health in Arambagh as in other places with high figures for malaria.

(*iii*) The income of the Arambagh municipality is about Rs. 13,000, the incidence of taxation being Rs. 1-5-3 per head based on a rate of one per cent. on income according to circumstances and property. These figures go to show that the income of the town is inadequate to cope with malaria, but that the resources available through taxation have not been fully developed.

(*b*) (*i*) The claims of the municipality to a grant for anti-malarial measures will have to be considered in comparison with those from other towns similarly situated, but, in the absence of any local association such as an anti-malarial co-operative society formed to cope with this problem, it could not satisfactorily be met by a Government grant alone.

(*ii*) The Director of Public Health has deputed an officer to make special inquiries into the condition of Arambagh, but officers are not posted by the Department of Public Health permanently to individual municipalities.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) (i) of unstarred question No. 69.

The following are the figures of admission for malaria at the Arambagh dispensary for the five years 1925 to 1929:—

Year.		Malaria.	Total admissions.	Ratio.
1925	...	6,666	9,879	67·5
1926	...	7,849	10,882	72·1
1927	...	6,642	9,685	68·6
1928	...	7,943	11,106	71·5
1929	...	7,133	10,456	68·2

The deaths from malaria during the same period are:—

Year.	Malaria deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000 of population.
1925	48	6·1
1926	61	7·8
1927	45	5·7
1928	55	7·0
1929	62	7·0

Landlords' transfer fees.

70. Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, district by district—

(i) the total amount of landlords' fees realised under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act since the Act came into force up to the 31st December, 1930;

(ii) the amount distributed to the landlords;

(iii) the amount still lying in the Collectorate;

(iv) what proportions of the moneys referred to in (i), (ii) and (iii) are due to co-sharer landlords as distinct from sole landlords;

(v) the amount of undistributed landlords' fees lying in the Collectorate of each district for over six months;

(vi) what portion of it belongs to sole landlords;

(vii) what is the cause of delay in distributing the amounts referred to in (v) and (vi); and

(viii) what steps, if any, do the Government contemplate taking to remove the difficulties and to facilitate the withdrawal of landlords' fees by co-sharer landlords?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (i), (ii) and (iii) A statement is laid on the table.

(iv), (v) and (vi) The information is not available.

(vii) Does not arise.

(viii) As the facilities for withdrawal provided by the existing law and rules would be ample if the landlords made full use of them, Government do not propose to take any further steps in the matter at present.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (i), (ii) and (iii) of unstarred question No. 70, showing (1) the amount of transfer fee realised, (2) the amount paid to landlords, and (3) the balance of the amount outstanding from 1st April, 1929, to 31st December, 1930.

District.	Receipts.	Payments.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bakarganj ...	3,90,057	1,30,797	2,59,260
Bankura ...	1,93,981	45,438	1,48,543
Birbhum ...	2,28,210	1,13,801	1,14,409
Bogra ...	2,27,060	1,01,494	1,25,566
Burdwan ...	3,55,225	2,05,136	1,50,089
Chittagong ...	1,19,090	30,320	88,770
Dacca ...	5,97,276	2,46,491	3,50,785*
Dinajpur ...	3,83,742	1,94,787	1,88,955
Faridpur ...	3,26,674	1,22,457	2,04,217
Hooghly ...	2,85,868	2,19,183	66,685
Howrah ...	1,86,472	68,181	1,18,291
Jalpaiguri ...	71,507	46,911	24,596
Jessore ...	82,879	39,095	43,784
Khulna ...	1,24,766	95,179	29,587
Malda ...	2,29,623	1,50,523	79,100
Midnapore ...	4,86,038	2,00,665	2,85,373
Murshidabad ...	2,17,308	1,65,088	52,220
Mymensingh ...	8,22,402	3,95,560	4,26,842
Nadia ...	1,47,630	56,266	91,364
Noakhali ...	1,26,586	69,772	56,814*
Pabna ...	3,10,672	1,02,451	2,08,221
Rajshahi ...	2,92,254	1,40,141	1,52,113*
Rangpur ...	4,47,485	3,22,143	1,25,342
Tippera ...	3,77,368	98,916	2,78,452*
24-Parganas ...	2,41,782	1,47,245	94,537
Total ...	72,71,955	35,08,040	37,63,915

* Excluding figures for the last quarter of 1930.

Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1931-32.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: Sir, it is once again my privilege, but in the peculiar circumstances of this year a somewhat doubtful privilege, to present to the Council the budget estimates of the Government of Bengal. They are accompanied as usual by the financial statement which explains the detailed budget heads, and I trust that members will find there the information that they require. If, however, any member desires further enlightenment on any point, both Mr. Blandy and myself will be glad to see him either here or in Writers' Buildings, and my colleagues will also be pleased to assist in any way as regards the departments under their several charges.

I have said that the privilege of introducing a budget such as to-day's is a somewhat doubtful one, and my reason for saying this is that the prospect is very gloomy from all points of view. Two main factors have contributed to this situation.

It is a matter of general knowledge that during this year there has been a world-wide depression in trade and commerce, and I need not labour this point. This depression has coincided in different parts of the world with bumper crops in wheat, cotton and other commodities. The two crops that concern us most intimately in Bengal are jute and rice. This year we expect to have what the Department of Agriculture reckon to be the second largest jute crop on record. This fact, together with the severe drop in the world demand, has caused prices of raw jute to fall phenomenally low, and the jute cultivators, especially of East Bengal, have suffered accordingly. Again, we also expect to have a very large rice crop this year. While this is comforting from the point of view of an ample food-supply, it comes hard on many of the cultivators. Bengal is not a large rice-exporting province, but certain cultivators grow more paddy than is necessary for their own requirements and depend for ready money on local sales of their excess grain. One does not usually grumble at the bountifulness of Nature, but the result this year of these two good crops is that there is a definite want of ready cash amongst the cultivators and others of that class. This deficiency of ready money is directly reflected in certain heads of our revenue such as "Excise," "Registration," "Stamps," and "Land Revenue" as far as estates directly under Government management are concerned. Government can only hope that this depression in trade and commerce will rapidly disappear and that the world demand will return to normal at as early a date as possible.

The other factor which has seriously disturbed our budget this year is the civil disobedience movement. While it is impossible to say how much of the decrease in our revenue is due to the factor of trade depression and how much to the civil disobedience movement, it is certain that the latter movement has affected our receipts, especially

under "Excise." On the expenditure side of the budget, however, the position is much clearer and we can definitely point to increases of expenditure under certain heads as being due to this movement. I shall deal with this point in more detail later on.

Let us now turn to the final figures of the year 1929-30. The budget estimate anticipated a closing balance of Rs. 1,66,65,000, and I raised this to Rs. 1,87,27,000 in the final revised estimate which I presented last year. Actually, however, the closing balance of that year proved to be better than anticipated by Rs. 7,51,000. There was a saving in expenditure of Rs. 13,62,000, chiefly under the heads "9—Registration" and "22—General Administration," due mainly to the provision for the transmission of landlords' fees under the amended Tenancy Act proving to be too high, while savings also occurred under the heads "Administration of Justice," "Police," "Medical" and "Civil Works." The revenue, however, failed to come up to expectation to the extent of Rs. 6,11,000. The net improvement was thus Rs. 7,51,000 over my revised estimate.

The sanctioned estimates for the current year provided for a total receipt of Rs. 13,60,57,000, including an opening balance of Rs. 1,87,27,000 and a total expenditure of Rs. 12,60,56,000, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 1,00,01,000 to be carried forward to 1931-32. It is in the first place necessary to explain how these anticipations miscarried. In the meeting of this House on the 10th instant Mr. S. M. Bose asked two questions relating to the decrease in revenue as compared with the budget in the first nine months of the year and the increase or decrease in expenditure, also as compared with the budget, under the various heads during the same period. I asked him to wait for his information till to-day, partly because I had not then received the nine months' actuals when the questions came up, while those of six months would have been misleading, and partly because I wished to correct a misapprehension which seemed to be implied in the form of his questions. I will take the latter point first. Actuals cannot be usefully compared with budget provision over any specified period less than a year because the progress of revenue and expenditure is not even throughout the year. Thus Land Revenue, as all members of this House are aware, comes in mainly on four fixed dates in the year, while receipts from Registration are usually heaviest in the last three months. On the other hand, expenditure on Public Works and the like is much greater in the second than in the first half of the year on account of the monsoon. What we do, therefore, is to compare our actual receipts and expenditure for any period, not with the corresponding proportion of the budget figure, but with the actuals of preceding years over the same period, and see by how much we are up or down on the previous year or years. Then on this basis and after taking such other factors, as are known to us, into account we frame revised estimates for the

whole year. I shall now give the salient figures under the chief Revenue and Expenditure heads, and I think that Mr. Bose will derive from these the information which he was seeking when he put his questions. The nine months' actuals show the following decreases as compared with the year 1929-30:—

	Rs.
Land Revenue	1,94,000
Excise	35,04,000
Forests	4,52,000
Registration	4,51,000
Scheduled Taxes (i.e., Amusements and Betting Taxes)	1,25,000
Stamps	66,57,000

(but this last figure includes the windfall mentioned last year of Rs. 52,08,000)

Other heads show slight increases or decreases, but the total of the Revenue heads for 9 months is Rs. 5,91,81,000 as against Rs. 6,60,15,000 (excluding the windfall of Rs. 52,08,000 from one estate as probate duty) for the same period last year a drop of Rs. 68,34,000. On this basis, as just explained, I have fixed the total revised estimate on Revenue account at Rs. 9,81,96,000, or, excluding the windfall referred to above, Rs. 1,01,83,000 less than the total actuals of 1929-30 and Rs. 1,14,58,000 less than the estimate adopted by the Council last year. Against this we have the small increase in the opening balance already mentioned of Rs. 7,51,000 and the following variations under the capital heads:

	Actuals, 1929-30.	Budget, 1930-31.	Revised, 1930-31.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts on Capital accounts ..	42,23,000	76,76,000	97,44,000

The increase this year as compared with the last year's actuals is due partly to Rs. 21,70,000 which we have borrowed for the Damodar Canal and the Bakreshwar Irrigation schemes for which nothing was borrowed last year, and partly to increased borrowings for financing the Bally Bridge and the Council Chamber. The subvention of Rs. 19,30,000 for improvement of provincial roads from the Road Development Fund is also included in the revised estimate which accounts for the increase as compared with the budget figure.

I now turn to the Expenditure side. The increased expenditure which Government had to face on account of the subversive political movement made them realise fairly early in the year that general retrenchment would be necessary. The persistent fall in revenue, which

must mainly be ascribed to the world depression in trade, made this even more evident. Stringent orders to effect economy were passed and the budget has been thoroughly examined several times with a view to the postponement of unessential expenditure.

The actuals for the first nine months, however, as compared with those of the same period last year, are likely to be misleading, as any statement prepared on this basis will not take into account the fact that under most heads increased provision for expenditure was made in the budget. I shall therefore draw attention to the more important increases and decreases. Under "Jails and Convict Settlements" the first nine months showed an increased expenditure of Rs. 7,60,000, as compared with an increased provision in the budget for the whole year of Rs. 90,000 only. "Police" similarly showed an increase of Rs. 7,82,000, as against an increased provision for the whole year of Rs. 6,27,000. "Civil Works" showed an increase of Rs. 7,94,000, as against an increased budget provision for the whole year of Rs. 4,10,000. "General Administration," on the other hand, showed an increased expenditure of Rs. 2,66,000 for nine months against an increased provision for the whole year of Rs. 5,57,000, the increase here being somewhat below the budget proportion. "Education (Transferred)" similarly shows an increase of Rs. 1,38,000 against the total increase in the budget of Rs. 5,17,000. "Public Health" and "Agriculture" also show increases of over a lakh during the nine months. The two most important decreases are Rs. 1,59,000 under "Registration," which is chiefly due to the falling off in documents presented for registration, which naturally results in decreased expenditure, and Rs. 1,56,000 under "Medical" due to postponement of expenditure, while expenditure in England also shows a drop of over a lakh, which is due to fewer officers being on leave during the period, and smaller charges on account of superannuation allowances and pensions. The other variations in expenditure, as compared with the previous year, are comparatively small and do not call for comment.

In view of the economies which the departments are known to be effecting, the revised estimate of total expenditure on Revenue heads has been placed at Rs. 11,55,48,000 against Rs. 11,33,49,000 actually spent in 1929-30 and the budget provision of Rs. 11,76,53,000. I may here remind the Council that in the August session they passed the following supplementary grants:—

		Rs.
Jails		10,43,000
Police		8,78,000
Civil Works		4,75,000
Total ...		**23,96,000**

This figure has to be added to the original budget provision to give the total amount available for expenditure, which is thus Rs. 12,00,49,000. The revised estimate having been placed at Rs. 11,55,48,000 under the Revenue heads, the net savings come to Rs. 45,01,000.

The difference between the budget figure Rs. 84,03,000 and the revised estimate of Rs. 73,80,000 for expenditure on capital account comes to Rs. 10,23,000 and is mainly due to the expenditure during the year on the Bally Bridge and the New Council Chamber being less than was originally anticipated and to the non-utilisation in full of the provision for loans to district boards for improvement of rural water-supply.

The net result is a saving of Rs. 55,24,000 on the total grant of Rs. 12,84,52,000 inclusive of the supplementary grant of Rs. 23,96,000, but as revenue shows a total drop of Rs. 93,90,000 on the budget figure we shall be worse off by Rs. 38,66,000 than we estimated. When, however, I presented the budget last year, I hoped to close this year with a balance of Rs. 1,00,01,000. Our actual opening balance has proved to be better by Rs. 7,51,000, but on the other hand we have in the August session drawn to the extent of Rs. 23,96,000 on this balance, and on our estimates we are down by Rs. 38,66,000 as explained above. The result is that we expect to carry forward to next year a balance of Rs. 44,90,000 only. I should here remind the House that hitherto a closing balance of one crore of rupees has been regarded as the minimum margin of safety. It has, in spite of drastic economies, fallen well below that minimum, and as I shall have to shew presently, next year will see even our present small margin disappear. Before I proceed to do this, however, it will be only fair to the Council to explain in somewhat more detail how the differences between the budget and revised estimates have been produced, and I cannot start better than with the bill of costs of the civil disobedience movement. These come under the five heads "26—Police," "47—Miscellaneous," "25—Jails," "41—Civil Works" and "24—Administration of Justice."

The extra expenditure has been calculated under "Police" at about Rs. 10,46,000, under "Jails" at Rs. 9,00,000, under "Administration of Justice for Special Tribunals" Rs. 58,000, under "Miscellaneous" in connection with détenus at Rs. 1,83,000, under "Civil Works" at Rs. 6,66,000, or a total figure of Rs. 28½ lakhs.

To this bill of actual extra expenditure an uncertain portion of the fall in revenue is undoubtedly to be added. The subversive movement is directly responsible for part of the fall under "Excise" and probably indirectly for some of that under "Registration" and "Stamps," for as members of this House are aware, a sense of insecurity is immediately reflected in litigation and in transactions which have ultimately to be crystallised in a registration office. The fall in revenue

attributable to the movement is however a matter of academic rather than practical interest. The question which Government had to face was how to meet the actual extra expenditure. Under "Police" the budget grant was Rs. 2,15,43,000, which was supplemented by an additional grant of Rs. 8,78,000 voted by Council in the August session, making a total of Rs. 2,24,21,000 available for expenditure. The budget estimate of expenditure was Rs. 2,15,43,000, and the additional expenditure, as stated already, Rs. 10,46,000; but the revised estimate of total expenditure comes to Rs. 2,20,78,000 only. That is to say, the additional expenditure has been met partly from the extra grant voted by this House and to the extent of Rs. 5,11,000 by economies effected within the department.

The position under "Jails" is much the same; the original budgeted grant of Rs. 29,45,000 under the minor head "Jails" was supplemented by the vote of this House to the extent of Rs. 10,43,000, making an available total for expenditure of Rs. 39,88,000. The budget estimate of expenditure was Rs. 29,45,000, the extra expenditure as already stated Rs. 9,00,000, a total of Rs. 38,45,000, while according to my revised estimate the total expenditure under the minor head "Jails" will be Rs. 37,85,000, shewing a saving of Rs. 60,000, which means that internal economies in the department which could not be accurately forecast when the supplementary demands were put forward have rendered that amount of the supplementary grant unnecessary.

As regards Civil Works, the extra expenditure on jails, etc., has amounted to Rs. 6,66,000 as stated already, but only token grants to meet this have been obtained from this House. The rest has been found by the stoppage or slowing down of works where this was possible.

The cost of détenus comes under the head "47—Miscellaneous," under which the original provision was Rs. 10,000 which it is proposed to supplement to the extent of Rs. 1,73,000, for which the vote of this House will be asked shortly.

I have been referring repeatedly to supplementary grants voted by the Council, but wish to make it clear that the money which the Council votes has to come from somewhere. Unlike the resourceful genie of Aladdin's lamp, the Council, however willing, cannot bring money from the air. The supplementary grants voted by this House come out of, and accordingly reduce, the Provincial balances. Government, therefore, being faced with this heavy additional expenditure and with a falling revenue, had, as already explained, to look round for all possible reductions in expenditure in order to avoid the provincial balance being entirely depleted by the extra grants for which they had to ask. As a result of careful scrutiny of the departmental budgets provisions for expenditure amounting to Rs. 40,67,000 were surrendered

up to last December, and some further surrenders have been made since the Christmas holidays and indeed are still coming in to the Finance Department. Though this has gone some way to mitigate the effect of the increased expenditure and fallen revenues, to which I have alluded, it has not sufficed to maintain the Provincial balance at the figure which I estimated last year.

Before passing on to the estimates for next year there is one further point in connection with the current year that requires explanation. The budget estimate of receipts from "Interest" included Rs. 3,28,000 on account of interest on a fixed deposit with the Government of India of rupees one crore for four months and of Rs. 60 lakhs for the remainder of the year. Under the arrangement with the Government of India, if a local Government places a fixed deposit with the Government of India and fails to maintain it for four consecutive months out of that period, they forfeit all interest thereon We succeeded in maintaining our deposit at a crore of rupees from April to July, after which it was reduced to sixty lakhs, but from August we began to fall below that figure, dropped further in October, and were reduced to a very low figure in November. Government made the utmost endeavour by postponing expenditure, wherever possible, till January and by other ways to ensure a favourable balance in that month. Unfortunately the effort failed with the result that we have lost the whole of our interest on Rs. 60 lakhs for eight months.

I now turn to next year, the prospects of which are, I regret to say, even more gloomy than the results of 1930-31. We estimate to carry forward a balance of Rs. 44,90,000 only against that crore of rupees which has hitherto been considered the margin of safety. Our total estimated receipts on Revenue account are Rs. 10,57,42,000 and on Capital Rs. 59,68,000, i.e., the amount available for expenditure is Rs. 11,17,10,000. Our total estimated expenditure on Revenue account is Rs. 11,55,69,000 and on Capital Rs. 70,07,000, making Rs. 12,25,76,000 in all. These figures result in a net excess of expenditure over income of Rs. 1,08,66,000, but to this the following items totalling Rs. 30,91,000 have to be added to provide for the following fixed liabilities, which represent the balances of certain funds that we are not at liberty to touch for ordinary purposes :—

	Rs.
Balance of Famine Insurance Fund	13,03,000
Balance of Press Depreciation Fund	3,37,000
Balance of Road Development Fund	9,01,000
Total	25,41,000

as well as Rs. 5,50,000 on account of possible increased demands under "Police" and "Education." Our total requirements thus stand at Rs. 1,39,57,000, but to meet this we shall have only the opening balance of Rs. 44,90,000 and therefore shall have to borrow Rs. 94,67,000. If, however, we do not have to spend any portion of the Rs. 30,91,000 to which I have just referred, our total deficit on the year's working will be Rs. 63,76,000 only. The figure Rs. 30,91,000 has accordingly been shown as our closing balance and has correspondingly swelled the provision under "Advances" from the Provincial Loans account. The latter stands at Rs. 1,13,67,000 and consists of—

	Rs.
(*a*) Loans for Bally Bridge, this Council building and the Damodar and the Bakreshwar Irrigation Projects ...	19,00,000
(*b*) The difference between our estimated receipts and our estimated actual outgoings less the opening balance ...	94,67,000
Total ...	1,13,67,000

This last sum will not be taken as a loan all at once but will be obtained by overdrawing our account with the Government of India as need arises during the year.

The estimated receipts under the various Revenue heads in the coming year anticipate some recovery from the disastrous figures of 1930-31, but we cannot afford to be too sanguine, as there is little indication that the present trade depression will pass in the near future, while even if the expected improvement in the political situation does come about and the peaceful elements among the people are suffered to go about their lawful avocations without let or hindrance from the partizans of Congress, their buying power has been so much reduced that we cannot expect them to contribute to a very substantial rise in revenue. The total under the Revenue heads has been fixed, as members will observe, at Rs. 10,57,42,000 being Rs. 75,46,000 more than the revised estimate for the current year, or an increase of about 7·7 per cent. On the other hand, it will be noticed that this figure is considerably less than the actual receipts of the three last years which (excluding the windfall of Rs. 52,08,000 in 1929-30) averaged Rs. 10,87,91,000. The estimates under the several heads have been explained in the Financial Statement, and I need here only draw attention to the following:—

Under "Land Revenue" an increase of Rs. 4½ lakhs has been taken under fixed collections and of Rs. 8 lakhs under Government estates in

the expectation that some of the current year's arrears will be made up and that the settlement and resettlement of some Government estates will result in larger collections. Some improvement is also anticipated under "Excise," though the figure taken is considerably below those of the previous years. "Stamps" have during the current year shewn most astonishing fluctuations: receipts were to a varying degree below those of the previous year each month up to July. August and October shewed an improvement on 1929, but November and December again declined, while January was not only the worst month in the year but the lowest on record since 1924. In the hope that we have touched bottom I have for next year raised the revised estimates under non-Judicial and Judicial stamps by Rs. 13 and 10 lakhs respectively. The latter includes Rs. 9,00,000 on account of charges for transmission of landlords' fees, corresponding to the provision of Rs. 8,00,000 made in the current year's budget. The head "Interest" shows a reduction of Rs. 2,88,000 on the current year's estimate, which is due to the fact that it will not be possible to place any money on deposit with the Government of India. The receipts under "XXX—Civil Works" shew an increase of about Rs. 16 lakhs, which is due, as explained in the budget statement, to receipts from the Road Development Fund, while the decrease under "Stationery and Printing" is due to the fact that this year we are getting an abnormal payment from the Government of India on account of work in connection with the Census. The decrease of Rs. 44,000 under "Miscellaneous" as against the revised estimate of the current year is explained by the fact that this year we received an unexpected contribution of that sum as our share of £60,000 additional payment by the Government of Great Britain towards the cost of the Indian Statutory Commission. The variations under the other Revenue heads do not call for further comment than is supplied in the Financial Statement.

The total expenditure under the Revenue heads is estimated at Rs. 11,55,69,000 or Rs. 21,000 only in excess of the revised estimate, but Rs. 20,84,000 below the budget estimate for the current year. The figures under the various heads have been explained in the Financial Statement, and I need only draw attention now to a few of the more important points. I will first remind the House that as our establishments are paid according to time-scales a certain amount of growth in expenditure has to be incurred every year until equilibrium is reached, which to some extent reduces the effect of the economies which the several departments have made. Secondly, in view of the disappearance of the Provincial balance it will be necessary to carry on in 1931-32 much of the reduction effected in 1930-31, but as I shall shortly shew, we have also made provision for some of the abnormal extra expenditure which the conditions of this year have rendered necessary. The House will notice that the provisions for the coming year are under most of the heads less than either the revised or the

budget provision for 1930-31, while the only important increases over the latter occur under "Jails," "Police," "Public Health" and "Miscellaneous." I shall deal with these shortly in the comments which I shall now make on some of the heads.

Excise.—The reduction in the price charged by the Government of India for opium and an anticipated smaller consumption of this drug, accounts for a reduction of Rs. 1,43,000 under this head.

Stamps.—The charges vary with the revenue, and as we are hoping for an improvement in the latter increased provision has to be made for the former. Under this head Government are asking the Council to vote a provision of Rs. 100 a month as special pay to the Probate Deputy Collector of the Calcutta Collectorate who has been doing most excellent work and has been mainly instrumental in obtaining for Government the full duty payable on certain big estates which have recently become liable.

Under "Forests" expenditure on the new, and, as we hope, remunerative, Sundarbans division is mainly responsible for the increase over the revised estimate under head 8, while certain new expenditure has been provided under head 8A.

The various items under "Irrigation" have been explained in the Financial Statement, and I need only refer to the receipt of Rs. 2½ lakhs which we hope to get from the Government of India on account of the dredger "Ronaldshay" which will probably continue to work in the Andamans till the end of October next.

Members may notice that the provision for "Interest on other obligations" has been transferred from "Voted" to "Non-voted." This follows on a ruling of the Auditor-General and is indeed natural as the payment of interest upon refunds of land revenue has to be made under the orders of a court of law. I mention this as the change has only just been made and members may wonder why only the other day I asked Council to regularise by their vote certain expenditure of this nature in 1928-29.

"General Administration" shows an increase over the revised and a small reduction on the budget provision for the current year. The Financial Statement explains the various items, and I need only draw attention to the lump sum of Rs. 19,000 provided under the Legislative Department for expenditure in connection with the administration of this building. Until some experience has been gained it is not possible to frame any accurate estimate of the expenditure that will be required in connection with the conduct of our deliberations and in keeping the building and its precincts in a condition worthy of this House. A lump provision has accordingly been made which it is hoped will suffice to cover the essential expenditure.

"Administration of Justice" calls for no remarks except that Government trust that the provision of Rs. 34,000 for "Special Tribunals" may prove to be unnecessary.

The same remark applies to the estimate under "Jails and Convict Settlements" where we have provided against the continuance of the present abnormal political situation throughout next year. If this improves—and I think that all members of this House agree with me in praying that it may improve—then our expenditure under this head will be considerably less.

The estimates under "26—Police" allow for normal growth but include provision for eight months for the additional executive and ministerial staff in the Special Branch of the Calcutta Police, and for six months' retention of the extra temporary District Intelligence and Criminal Investigation staffs which have had to be sanctioned to cope with the present political situation. Provision for other additional staff for which a supplementary grant was voted by Council this year has not been made beyond the term of the existing sanctions, but should the situation not improve as we hope it will, Government will have to approach the Council again for a supplementary grant next year.

I should also invite attention to the change in classification which is noted in the Financial Statement under "Railway Police" and to the provision of Rs. 45,000 for rearmament under "Police Training School."

Under "Education" (Transferred) the anticipated expenditure has been reduced to Rs. 1,25,29,000 against the revised estimate in the current year of Rs. 1,29,26,000. This has been effected mainly by the postponement of expenditure which cannot be regarded as immediately essential, but I should draw attention to the provision of Rs. 25,000 for the introduction of compulsory physical culture and of an extra Rs. 49,000 for increased grants-in-aid to primary schools and to the fact that Rs. 1,29,000 for non-Government arts colleges which was withheld this year on account of the financial position has been provided in full next year. The Council will also notice that while the budget provides the usual grants for the Calcutta University the revised estimate was raised by upwards of Rs. 1½ lakhs. Correspondence is going on between the University and Government with a view to the stabilisation of the amount of assistance which it obtains from Government. It was expected that negotiations would be concluded in time for an extra grant to be paid this year and the revised estimate has been framed accordingly, but so far no agreement has been reached.

The estimates under "Medical" show a decrease of about Rs. 3 lakhs on the current year's budget and an increase of about Rs. 2½ lakhs over the revised estimate. The variations are explained in the

Statement, but the House will notice that provision has been made for the grant of one lakh to the Victoria Hospital, Darjeeling, which could not be utilised this year, and for the balance of the grant to the "Jatiya Ayurbijnan Parishad," while in the Civil Works Budget Rs. 76,000 has been included for the Barisal Medical School.

The "Public Health" estimates provide for an expenditure of nearly Rs. 5 lakhs more than the revised and about Rs. 80,000 more than the budget estimate for 1930-31. The details will be found at pages 74-76 of the Financial Statement, and the House will notice that most of the important grants have been repeated including that of Rs. 12 lakhs for Public Health organisation, Rs. 2½ lakhs for Rural Water-supply and Rs. 40,000 for Maternity and Child Welfare, while the Quinine grant, Rs. 1,20,000, has also been included and provision made of rupees one lakh each for Anti-malaria and Anti-kala-azar measures. Members may not remember the Bhatpara Sewerage Scheme for which Rs. 1,50,000 has been provided. This is part of a commitment which the Council authorised Government to undertake by voting a token grant of Rs. 1,000 in the budget for 1925-26. Briefly the scheme was to cost Rs. 18 lakhs of which the mill-owners contributed Rs. 11½ lakhs and the Municipality half a lakh, the remaining one-third, or Rs. 6 lakhs, coming from Government. The revised estimate of the scheme's cost now comes to Rs. 21,10,365, of which the mill-owners are finding Rs. 11,50,000, the Municipality Rs. 2,60,365 and Government the remaining Rs. 7 lakhs. The work is in full progress and the time has come for Government to begin paying their contribution. As the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, expects to be able to spend Rs. 1,50,000 in 1931-32, provision has been made for this amount.

Before passing on I should also draw attention to the change made in adjusting certain charges under "Works" which is explained on page 76 of the Financial Statement.

Under the head "Agriculture" I need only draw attention to the increase in the establishment of auditors for co-operative societies. With the growth in the number of societies more auditors are necessary, and as the societies pay audit fees Government would not be fulfilling their side of the bargain if they failed to appoint the required number of men.

Apart from expenditure from the Road Development Fund, the details of which will be found in Appendix B at pages 106-07 of the Financial Statement, the only new expenditure is on account of two settlement buildings at Rangpur, necessitated by the settlement operations in that district. Government have been unable to provide for any other new projects and have had to reduce considerably the provisions for minor works. A provision of Rs. 2,50,000 has been inserted in the Budget for the new Teesta Bridge, in which connection I am happy to

inform the House that it has been decided to substitute a design in reinforced concrete which will be substantially cheaper than the girder bridge originally contemplated.

The increased provision under "Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges" include Rs. 5,75,000 in connection with persons detained under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. As already remarked in connection with jails, if the political situation improves expenditure for this purpose should be correspondingly less.

The Council have listened very patiently to this long and somewhat depressing narrative. I wish that I could close on a more cheerful note, but unless world conditions improve there is little chance of our revenues increasing and we may not even obtain the conservative increases which I have made. On the other hand, if the political situation improves, we may hope for substantial savings on some of the expenditure estimates and to carry forward a somewhat lighter deficit than anticipated. If things do improve our first efforts must be directed to re-establishing that safe balance which the present unhappy conditions, both internal and external, will have caused to disappear. But this will only mean a continuation of the disheartening process of cheese-paring of which we are all so utterly tired. What the financial arrangements under the new constitution will be we do not know, but some resettlement is almost certain and we must all unite in the struggle to ensure that it at last does justice to the patient population of Bengal.

Adjournment.

The Council was then adjourned till 3 p. m., on Monday, the 2nd of March, 1931, at the Council House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Council House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 2nd March, 1931, at 3 p.m.

Present:

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja Sir MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, KT., of Santosh) in the Chair, the Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, KT., C.I.E., the Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice, C.I.E., the three Hon'ble Ministers and 106 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Meetings in several villages in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district.

*110. **Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that several mass meetings were held during the months of July and August last in several villages, such as Bolai Simulia, Purbadhola, Jharia, Shyamganj, Medni, Mohanganj, etc., in the Netrakona subdivision of the Mymensingh district;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that all of these meetings were attended by an overwhelming majority of Muhammadans and addressed by one Maulvi Nurul Hossain of village Kasimpur;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that every one of the speeches made by the abovenamed Maulvi at the aforesaid meetings was anti-Hindu in spirit and temper and calculated to incite the Muhammadans of the locality to acts of aggression against the Hindus;

(iv) whether it is a fact that the local authorities were aware of the mischievous character of the speeches delivered by the said Maulvi;

(v) whether it is a fact that no steps were taken to stop his activities;

(vi) whether it is a fact that at the meetings held at Purbadhola, Jharia and Shyamganj the Subdivisional Officer of Netrakona, Mr. Saleh Ahmad, was present; and

(vii) whether it is a fact that the said Subdivisional Officer himself delivered speeches at those or any of those meetings, calculated to incite the Muhammadans of the locality against the Hindus?

(b) If the answer to (a) (vii) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken up to date, against the said officer for his speeches? If so, what?

(c) If no action has yet been taken, what steps, if any, do the Government propose to take against the said officer for such speeches?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice): (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) Muhammadans were in the majority and the meetings were addressed by Maulvi Nurul Hossain.

(iii) No.

(iv) Does not arise.

(v) No steps were necessary.

(vi) Yes.

(vii) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is the usual practice for Government officers to deliver speeches of this character at these meetings?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: The meetings were held for the purpose of counteracting civil disobedience propaganda, and Government officers have a right to be present at these meetings.

Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Government officers are entitled to take part in these meetings?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: They were held to counteract civil disobedience propaganda, and as such Government officers have a right to be present.

Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state———(inaudible in the Reporters' gallery.)

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: Government encourage these meetings against civil disobedience propaganda.

Khan Sahib Maulvi BAZLUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the majority of the population of Netrakona were present at the meeting?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I believe so.

District boards' grants-in-aid to old scheme madrasahs.

***111. Khan Sahib Maulvi BAZLUL HUQ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware that the Director of Public Instruction has issued orders to the district boards asking them not to give grants-in-aid even to those old scheme madrasahs which have been recognised by the Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the said orders had his previous approval?

(*c*) Is it not a fact that many old scheme madrasahs are being maintained at public expense?

(*d*) If so, what will be the effect of the principles enunciated in that letter on those madrasahs?

(*e*) Do the Government intend not to maintain them any longer?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the orders of the Director of Public Instruction has created widespread agitation and discontent all over the province?

(*g*) Are the Government considering the desirability of instructing the Director of Public Instruction to recall that order and of leaving the matter to the discretion of the members of the district boards?

MINISTER in charge of EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Nazimuddin): (*a*) The district board, Noakhali, were instructed not to make new grants-in-aid to old scheme madrasahs until adequate provision had been made for primary education.

(*b*) The order was in accordance with rules previously approved by Government.

(*c*) The Calcutta Madrasah is maintained from provincial revenues and some old scheme madrasahs are receiving grants-in-aid from local bodies.

(*d*) The order issued only applies to new grants and could not in any case affect old scheme madrasahs already in receipt of grants.

Modified orders have subsequently issued to district boards in the Chittagong Division according to which new grants can be made to old scheme madrasahs under certain conditions.

(*e*) Does not arise.

(*f*) No. One complaint only was received.

(*g*) No. It is understood that the district boards are satisfied with the orders passed.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: With reference to answer (*d*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what conditions grants-in-aid are made to old scheme madrasahs?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: The orders do not apply to old grants to schools which are in receipt of grants. They only apply to schools which apply for new grants.

Mushroom banks.

***112. Dr. NARESH CHANDRA SEN GUPTA:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Commerce Department been drawn to a large number of mushroom banks operating on the "snow-ball" system which have sprung up in Bengal and which are playing upon the credulity of poor cultivators and other classes

of needy men in Bengal by holding out prospects of giving large loans at a nominal rate of interest on their becoming members of the bank by payment of a fee?

(*b*) Have the Government taken any steps to prevent these institutions from carrying on their business?

(*c*) Have the Government taken legal opinion as to the legality of these concerns?

(*d*) Is it in the contemplation of Government to take legal proceedings against them?

(*e*) If the Government is advised that these concerns cannot be proceeded against under the present law, are the Government contemplating any legislation to stop these adventures?

MEMBER in charge of COMMERCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): (*a*) No representations have been received in the Commerce Department regarding the operation of these banks, but the activities of a number of them have been engaging the attention of the police.

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) and (*e*) Several prosecutions, resulting in conviction have been instituted, and Government are considering the question of taking further steps against them, in consultation with their technical and legal advisers.

Grant of medical certificates to applicants for professional motor driving licences.

***113. Mr. R. MAITI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether Government assistant surgeons are the only persons to grant medical certificates to applicants for professional motor driving?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Government sub-assistant surgeons have also been authorised to grant such certificates in the absence of Government assistant surgeons?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether under the rules prior to the amendments, private medical practitioners with registrable qualifications were authorised to grant such certificates?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons why private medical practitioners of the assistant surgeon class are not authorised to grant such certificates?

(e) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that under the present amended rules on the point, private registered practitioners have been greatly aggrieved with the loss of their powers under the rules?

(f) Are the Government considering the desirability of amending the rules so as to remove the grievance of the private registered medical practitioners?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice): (a) No. The relevant rules on this subject are rule 23 (*1*) of the Calcutta and Howrah Motor Vehicles Rules and rule 15 (*7*) of the Mufassal Motor Vehicles Rules, extracts from which are laid on the table. Panels of medical practitioners have been appointed for Calcutta and Howrah and for Jalpaiguri district.

(b) Yes. *Vide* rule 15 (*7*) of the Mufassal Rules.

(c) No. The rules referred to in clause (*a*) above were introduced in 1921 and 1927, respectively. Previous to these dates, no medical examination was required.

(d) All rules under the Motor Vehicles Act are published for criticism before they are finally adopted. The rules referred to in clause (*a*) were so published but no criticism or suggestion was received by Government.

(e) and (f) In view of the answers given to clauses (*c*) and (*d*), these do not arise.

Extract from the Calcutta and Howrah Motor Vehicles Rules, 1930, referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 113.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

23. (*1*) Any person who drives a motor vehicle for hire or for remuneration shall hold a professional licence. Every applicant for a professional driving licence shall produce a medical certificate in Form E appended to these rules after being examined by one of a panel of medical practitioners nominated for the purpose by the local Government. The fee payable for such medical examination or re-examination shall be Rs. 5. The Commissioner shall have power to require the holder of a professional driving licence to undergo a fresh medical examination, if in his opinion to be recorded in writing, there is reasonable doubt as to the holder's physical fitness to drive a motor vehicle.

FORM E.

[*See* rules 22(*b*), 23(*1*) and 103(*b*).]

APPLICATION FOR A PROFESSIONAL LICENCE TO DRIVE/LICENCE TO ACT AS CONDUCTOR OF A MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER THE INDIAN MOTOR VEHICLES ACT, VIII OF 1914, AND THE RULES MADE THEREUNDER.

The applicant is warned that all particulars given shall be true and that any misrepresentation renders him liable to a penalty.

1. Name in full.
2. Father's name.
3. Caste or religion.
4. Home address—Village Post office
   Police-station District
5. Local address.
6. How long have you resided in Calcutta or Howrah?
7. Have you anywhere previously held a motor-driving/conductor's licence? If so, give particulars of the licence and any punishments.
8. Have you at any time been disqualified for obtaining such a licence? If so, note by whom, why, and for how long disqualified.
9. Have you ever been dismissed from any employment? If so, state from what, when, and why dismissed?
10. Have you ever been suspected in, charged with or convicted of any offence? If so, give the time, place and nature of the offence.

I hereby declare that I have given true particulars herein and apply for a licence to drive a (state light motor car, taxi-cab or heavy motor car)/conductor's licence.

The required fee, Rs. is presented with two copies of my photo.

Left thumb impression. *Signature of the applicant.*

No. *Date.*

Forwarded in original to the Superintendent of Police for favour of verification of antecedents and the above particulars and early return. A brief report, *signed by the Officer-in-charge of the police-station* and *bearing the police-station seal*, should be endorsed above.

Deputy Commissioner of Police,
Public Vehicles Department.

CALCUTTA,
Dated the day of 19 .

Certified that Rs. is due.

Examining Clerk.

Dated the day of 19 .

The fee Rs. mentioned above has been duly credited, *vide* Receipt No. dated the day of 19 .

Cashier.

Failed or passed on a and in Mechanism, Motor and Traffic Rules.

Examining Officer.

Dated the day of 19 .

Failed or passed in knowledge of Calcutta and Howrah, of taximeter and rates for hire.

Examining Officer.

Dated the day of 19 .

Check and issue licence.

Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Dated the day of 19 .

Application in order. Licence No. issued to-day.

Licence Clerk,
Motor Vehicles Branch.

Dated the day of 19 .

Applicant to affix a copy of his photo here.
Medical Practitioner to stamp or sign across it.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

Special attention should be directed to distant vision, to the condition of the arms, hands and joints of the upper extremities.

1. Is he less than 18 years of age?

2. Is the applicant, to the best of your judgment, subject to epilepsy, vertigo or any mental ailment, likely to affect his efficiency?

3. Does the applicant suffer from any heart or lung disorder which might interfere with the performance of his duties as a driver?

4. (*a*) Is there any defect of vision? If so, has it been corrected by suitable spectacles?

(*b*) Does the applicant suffer from night blindness?

(*c*) Is there any defect of hearing?

5. Has the applicant any deformity or loss of members which would interfere with the efficient performance of his duties as a driver?

6. Is he sufficiently active for the performance of his duties?

7. Does he show any evidence of being addicted to the excessive use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs?

8. Is he in your opinion generally fit as regards (*a*) bodily health, (*b*) temperament for the duties of a motor vehicle driver?

Marks of identification to be noted below by the Medical Practitioner.

Certified that I have examined the applicant described herein and that the answers to the questions above are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name of Medical Practitioner—

Address

Signature of Medical Practitioner.
Dated the day of 19 .

Extract from "Rules to regulate the use of motor vehicles in places in the Bengal Presidency other than Calcutta (including suburbs) and the municipality of Howrah," corrected up to 15th September, 1930, referred to in the reply to clauses (a) and (b) of starred question No. 113.

15. (7) Every applicant for a professional driving licence shall produce a medical certificate, in the form appended to these rules, after being examined by the assistant surgeon at the headquarters of the Magistrate to whom the application is made, or by the sub-assistant surgeon if no assistant surgeon is available at the headquarters or by a member of a board of medical practitioners in any area in which a board has been constituted by the local Government for this purpose. A Magistrate who is authorised to issue a licence may require the holder of a professional licence in the area in which such Magistrate has jurisdiction to undergo a fresh medical examination by an assistant or a sub-assistant surgeon at the Magistrate's headquarters if in his opinion there is reasonable doubt as to the holder's physical fitness to drive a motor vehicle. The fee chargeable for examination or re-examination shall be Rs. 4.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE.

FOR APPLICANTS FOR A PROFESSIONAL LICENCE TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE.

1. Is he less than 18 years of age ?	.....
2. Is the applicant, to the best of your judgment, subject to epilepsy, vertigo or any mental ailment likely to affect his efficiency ?	....
3. Does the applicant suffer from any heart or lung disorder which might interfere with the performance of his duties as a driver ?	....
4. (a) Is there any defect of vision ? If so, has it been corrected by suitable spectacles ? (b) Does the applicant suffer from night blindness ? (c) Is there any defect of hearing ?	....

5. Has the applicant any deformity or loss of members which would interfere with the efficient performance of his duties as a driver ?	.....
6. Is he sufficiently active for the performance of his duties ?	.....
7. Does he show any evidence of being addicted to the excessive use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs ?	.....
8. Is he in your opinion generally fit as regards (*a*) bodily health and (*b*) temperament for the duties of a motor-vehicle driver ?	.....
9. Marks of identification.	.....

NOTE.—Special attention should be directed to distant vision, to the condition of the arms, hands and joints of the upper extremities.

(Signed)

Name.....

Designation .....

Date .....

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what is the reason for mentioning Jalpaiguri only?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: Communications are so difficult in Jalpaiguri on account of unbridged rivers that for the convenience of the public a panel of medical practitioners which includes representatives of all the main areas has been set up.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: How can doctors grant certificates for motor driving?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: Doctors do not grant certificates for motor driving, but they certify to the medical fitness of applicants for motor driving.

Estate of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad.

*114. **Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the estate of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad is going to be placed under the management of Government? If so, when?

MEMBER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): The matter is under consideration and pending definite decision it is not possible to answer the second part of the question.

Appointment of munsifs.

*115. **Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the number of munsifs selected by the High Court before the last Christmas holidays;

(*ii*) how many of them are Muhammadans; and

(*iii*) what are the qualifications of those who have been selected?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the candidates selected had some years' practice as lawyers?

(*c*) What was the length of the practice of each candidate who has been selected?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when a Hindu from the district of Chittagong was last selected?

(*e*) Is the selection made by a single judge or by a committee of judges?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of assuming responsibility for appointing munsifs?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice): (*a*) (*i*) Sixteen.

(*ii*) Five.

(*iii*) Thirteen are first class B. L.'s., one is a first class Ll.B., one is a second class B.L., and one is a second class Ll.B. Fourteen are M.A's. and two are B.A's.

(*b*) and (*c*) A statement as to the length of practice of the selected candidates is laid on the table.

(*d*) In 1929.

(*e*) The selection is made by the Hon'ble Judge in charge of the English Department of the High Court in consultation with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

(*f*) No.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (b) and (c) of starred question No. 115 regarding the length of practice of candidates selected by the High Court for appointment as munsifs.

No. of candidates.		Length of practice up to 1st December, 1930.	
		Years.	Months.
1	..	2	3
2	..	2	0
2	..	1	11
1	..	1	10
1	..	1	9
1	..	1	5
5	..	1	0
1	..	0	11½
2	..	0	11
Total .. 16			

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether there is not a minimum qualifying practice necessary for appointment as munsif?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I must ask for notice.

Mr. P. N. GUHA: Are there any rules framed by the High Court in that behalf?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: No rules have been framed.

Mr. P. N. GUHA: Is it a fact that only first class B.L.'s were employed as munsifs?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I must ask for notice.

Muhammadans in Bogra Collectorate.

***116. Khan Sahib Maulvi BAZLUL HUQ:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the years 1929 and 1930—

(*i*) how many vacancies occurred in the office of the Collector and Magistrate of Bogra;

(*ii*) how many of them were filled up by—

(1) Muhammadans, and

(2) non-Muhammadans

with their qualifications;

(*iii*) how many of the said posts were to go to the Moslems according to the population basis;

(*iv*) what was the number of Moslem candidates for those vacancies with their qualifications; and

(*v*) what minimum qualifications did Government fix for those appointments?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Government have issued any orders for recruitment of ministerial officers by competitive examination?

(*c*) Was any competitive examination held there for filling up the vacancies?

(*d*) If so, under whose orders was the examination held?

(*e*) Who were the examinees?

(*f*) Was there any Moslem officers on the Board of Examiners? If not, why not?

(*g*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that complaints have appeared against the Collector regarding injustice to Moslems in filling up the vacancies?

(*h*) Are the Government considering the desirability of issuing instruction to all officers concerned that in future Government orders and circulars regarding Moslem appointment be not overlooked?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*), (*iii*) and (*iv*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*v*) Qualifications required of a candidate for appointment to the ministerial post are mentioned in rule 54 of the Board's Miscellaneous Rules, 1918.

(*b*) No, except as provided in the note under rule 54 of the Board's Miscellaneous Rules.

(*c*) No, but candidates were tested by written examination on every occasion.

(*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) Do not arise.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) This has already been done and Government receive annual reports on the subject from the Commissioners and heads of departments in which they review and pass orders upon returns submitted by the officers concerned.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) (i) to (iv) of starred question No. 116 showing appointments in the Bogra Collectorate for the years 1929 and 1930.

1	2		3	4	5
How many vacancies occurred in the office of the Collector and Magistrate of Bogra.	How many of them were filled up by:—		How many of the said posts were to go to the Moslems according to the population basis ?*	What was the number of Moslem candidates for those vacancies, with their qualifications ?	Remarks.
	Muhammadans, with qualifications ?	non-Muhammadans, with qualifications ?			
1929				6	
General Establishment .. 2	1	1	1·60	Matric .. 5	
Khas Mahal Establishment Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil		
Temporary Establishment .. 1	1	Nil	·82	Non-Matric 1	
Total .. 3	(a)2	(b)1	2·49	6	(a) One Matric and one non-Matric.
1930				35	(b) One B.Sc.
General Establishment . 6	1	5	4·92	B.A. (age-barred) 1	
Khas Mahal Establishment 3	2	1	2·49	I.A. (2 age-barred) 3	
Temporary Establishment . 5	1	4	4·10	Matric . 31	
Total . 14	(c)4	(d)10	11·48	35	(c) Three Matric and one non-Matric.
					(d) Three B.Sc., one B.A., one plucked B.Sc., four Matric and one non-Matric.

* Appointments are not made on population basis. The number of Muhammadan clerks in the Collectorate and Magistracy is over the prescribed minimum of 33 per cent.

Air survey operations in Malda.

*117. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the results of the aerial survey operations carried on in the Malda district have been found to be satisfactory in the opinion of settlement officers and others competent to judge on the subject; and

(*ii*) whether it is in the contemplation of Government to extend these aerial survey operations to any other district in Bengal?

(*b*) Is it a fact that many *amins* and surveyors formerly employed in the settlement department have been thrown out of employment as a result of these aerial survey operations?

(*c*) If so, what would be the approximate number of such persons?

(*d*) How does the work of the Aerial Survey Company compare with the work turned out by the *amins* and surveyors?

(*e*) What is the margin of error allowed—

(*i*) in the case of maps prepared by the *amins* and surveyors of the settlement department; and

(*ii*) in the case of the aerial survey maps?

(*f*) If there is any difference between the two, what is the cause of such difference?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table copies of all papers and correspondence in connection with the aerial survey operations in the Malda district?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) It is not a fact that as a result of the adoption of the air survey method many *amins* and surveyors formerly employed in settlements have been thrown out of employment. It is true, however, that in the case of some of them the period of employment has been reduced from 3½ months to 2 months.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) The work done by air survey is more accurate than the work done by the ordinary method by *amins* and surveyors.

(*e*) (*i*) One link in two Gunter's chains or in very undulating country one link in one Gunter's chain.

(*ii*) The same.

(*f*) Does not arise.

(*g*) Government are not prepared to lay copies of the papers and correspondence on the table.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what is the number of men whose employment has been reduced?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I must ask for notice.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: As regards (*d*), will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether this is the unanimous opinion of all the settlement officers in the province?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: We have only surveyed one district, and so far as I remember, that was the opinion of the settlement officer in that district, but if the member wants more detailed information, I can give it to him.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason why Government is not willing to lay copies of the papers and correspondence on the table?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Because it is against past precedent and in this particular case against public interest.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Is there anything to hide?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: No.

Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Government finds it any cheaper?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Yes.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the first attempt failed miserably, and Government had to bear the cost?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: No. As regards the first attempt that was found unsatisfactory, and Government gave the Company notice of cancellation of their contract making the Company liable; the Company, however, asked to be allowed to make a further experiment at their own cost; this was allowed and it was eminently satisfactory. When that experiment was found successful, and Government were satisfied that it was cheaper and more accurate, the contract was given to this Company.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the first attempt Government had to incur a large expenditure when the contract was first cancelled?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: No.

Tolly's Nala.

*118. **Babu SATYENDRA NATH ROY:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Irrigation Department been drawn to the unsatisfactory state of the Tolly's Nala?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government intend improving the same by re-excavation or by other measures?

SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT (Mr. H. C. V. Philpot): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The effect of draining and drawing water through the Keorapukur sluice in the monsoon season is being tried and provision has been made for silt clearance in some places, in the budget for 1931-32.

Filing copies of decrees and fresh vakalatnamas for the purpose of executing decrees in rent suits.

*119. **Maulvi MUHAMMAD HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that the provision of clause (*n*) of section 148 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, is not being complied with in rent execution cases in the civil courts in the district of Bakarganj, to the great inconvenience of the parties?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state in how many rent execution cases in the civil courts at Barisal in the year 1930 copy of decree and fresh vakalatnama were not filed and the court subsequently directed the decree-holder to file the copy of decree and vakalatnama and what are the reasons for doing so?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: (a) The provisions of section 148 (a) of the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, are being observed in all the civil courts in Bakarganj and copies of decrees and fresh vakalatnamas are requisitioned only in special cases for special reasons which are recorded in writing as required by law.

(b) No statistics are kept in the courts to show the number of cases in which copies of decrees and fresh vakalatnamas were not filed, but filed afterwards on the requisition of courts. On examination of the records of the pending files it appears that out of 3079 cases now pending, copies of decrees were called for in 33 cases and fresh vakalatnamas demanded in one case only.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what were the reasons that led the Court to call for copies of decrees in 33 cases, and fresh vakalatnamas in only one case?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I cannot say.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD HOSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the name of the department from which report may be asked?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: I want notice of this.

Collection of demands from khas mahal tenants.

*120. **Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing from April to December, 1930, the percentage of collection of the total demands from *khas mahal* tenants in each district of Bengal as compared with that of the three preceding years for the same period for the same district? (If accurate figures are not available, approximate figures may be given to form some idea.)

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. 120, showing the percentage of collections on total current demands from Government estates, including Government estates leased to farmers, from April to December in the years 1927-30.

	1927 Percentage.	1928 Percentage.	1929 Percentage.	1930 Percentage.
Burdwan ..	113·57	97·51	103·69	79·91*
Birbhum ..	57·41	(*a*) 1·31	1·97*	171·42
Bankura ..	109·14	71·28	80·89	109·26
Midnapore ..	66·41	127·97	102·21	111·18
Hooghly ..	101·504	(*b*) 57·03	(*b*) 52·75	47·58
Howrah ..	72·68	58·44	77·64	84·01
24-Parganas ..	99·51	95·76	108·75	91·59
Nadia ..	81·21	83·65	94·28	99·83
Murshidabad ..	115·46	78·88	51·80	82·14
Jessore ..	112·06	59·76	114·09	91·92
Khulna ..	66·23	107·15	141·13	93·89
Rajshahi ..	99·108	138·96	118·73	85·65
Dinajpur ..	(*c*) Nil	(*b*)46·15	(*b*) 58·33	Nil
Rangpur ..	179·83	162·38	157·76	118·52
Bogra ..	92·44	89·049	97·66	47·68
Pabna ..	105·41	107·29	82·41	35·92*
Malda ..	106·809	84·36	118·49	76·42
Jalpaiguri ..	88·88	109·907	56·28	98·33
Darjeeling ..	121·06	86·35	110·12	99·23
Dacca ..	83·71	103·47	73·89	46·08
Mymensingh ..	101·48	87·76	48·04	45·10
Faridpur .	84·203	88·12	93·40	56·82
Bakarganj ..	136·94	112·51	201·05	129·09
Chittagong ..	103·69	110·83	129·21	79·53*
Tippera ..	79·97	131·98	74·32	46·32
Noakhali ..	83·12	101·79	128·57	104·04*

(*a*) Owing to suspension. (*b*) On annual demand. (*c*) Annual demand was only Rs. 65.
*April to September.

Scarcity of drinking water in village Sankerpur in Narail.

***121. Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a largely signed memorial, dated the 4th March, 1930, was submitted to the then Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, Local Self-Government, Bengal, by the inhabitants of the village Sankerpur, police-station Narail, in the district of Jessore, regarding the scarcity of drinking water in the said village?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the attention of the Hon'ble Minister was again drawn to the grave situation created for want of drinking water in July, 1930?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in the matter?

(*d*) If no action is to be taken, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table copies of the memorials and reminders?

MINISTER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) and (*b*) No such papers have been traced in my departments.

(*c*), (*d*), (*e*) Do not arise.

Deaths over births in Sankerpur village in Narail.

***122. Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the death-rate in the village of Sankerpur, police-station Narail, in the district of Jessore, is gradually increasing and not the birth-rate?

(*b*) Have the Government considered that on this ratio of the death-rate the village Sankerpur will be depopulated within ten years?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action the Government have taken or intend to take to check the increased ratio in the death-rate?

(*d*) If no action is to be taken in the matter, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the birth and death-rates respectively for the last ten years of the Sankerpur village?

The Hon'ble Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) The number of deaths in this village has exceeded the number of births in eight years out of the last ten.

(*b*) Government prefer to express no opinion as forecasts of this kind are notoriously fallacious.

(*c*) and (*d*) The position in this village forms part of the decrease in the population of Jessore referred to in Question 48 at the last session. Decrease of population in certain tracts due to general unhealthy conditions is a state of affairs for which in Bengal as in other countries no specific remedy by Government action has yet been found.

(*e*) The number of births and deaths reported in this village is shown in the statement laid on the table. The rate per 1,000 cannot be given for individual villages as statistics are not based on this unit.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (e) of starred question No. 122, showing the number of births and deaths, respectively, for the last ten years of the Sankerpur village in Narail police-station of Jessore district.

Year.	Number of births.	Number of deaths.
1921	11	24
1922	8	7
1923	9	12
1924	9	19
1925	9	5
1926	5	7
1927	8	11
1928	6	7
1929	17	18
1930	14	28

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Hunger-strike in Berhampore Special Jail.

71. Dr. AMULYA RATAN GHOSE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present number of prisoners in the Berhampore Special Jail;

(*ii*) the names of the Superintendent and the Jailer; and

(*iii*) how long they have been in charge of jail?

(*b*) Is it a fact that all the political prisoners in that jail went on hunger-strike on the 28th and 29th of December, 1930?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons for the strike?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the removal of a "Shiva Lingam" which used to be daily worshipped by the Hindu prisoners, by the order of the Jailer on the night of the 27th December, has wounded the religious feelings of the Hindus both within and without the jail?

(*e*) Is it a fact that a room has been set apart for the prayers of the Mussalman prisoners?

(*f*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what, if any, has been done for the Hindu prisoners?

(*g*) Is it a fact that since the removal of the "Shiva Lingam" four of the prisoners have gone on hunger-strike?

(*h*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state their present condition?

(*i*) Is it a fact that the hunger-strikers have been kept separate from the rest of the political prisoners and the latter are not even allowed to see the former? If so, why?

(*j*) What steps (if any) are being taken to persuade the hunger-strikers to break their fast?

(*k*) Is any medical help being rendered to them?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL (JAILS) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) (*i*) 477 on 31st January, 1931.

(*ii*) Mr. N. G. Singh, Superintendent. Babu Benoy Bhushan Bhattacharjee, Jailer.

(*iii*) Mr. N. G. Singh from 20th October, 1930, and Babu Benoy Bhushan Bhattacharjee from 20th September, 1928.

(*b*) All the political prisoners went on hunger-strike on the morning of the 28th December, but they took their food on the evening of that day as also on the 29th.

(*c*) The reasons given out for the hunger-strike on the morning of the 28th was the alleged removal of a stone said to have been emblematic of the god Shiva.

(*d*) Some prisoners assert that the said stone was in the jail. The Superintendent reports that the existence of the stone said to have been removed was unknown to him and unsanctioned by him and that no such stone was removed by his orders or by the orders or agency of any of the jail staff. In order to ascertain whether any such stone was in existence prior to the present Superintendent's incumbency, an inquiry was made of his predecessor who also reported that the existence of the alleged stone emblematic of the god Shiva was not known to him or reported to him by the jail staff. The Jailer did not

pass any orders for the removal of the stone and the allegation about the wounding of the religious feelings of the Hindus seems to be merely an excuse.

(*e*) At the request of the Muhammadan prisoners a vacant room was set apart for the congregational worship for Muhammadan prisoners.

(*f*) As the practice of their religion does not enjoin congregational worship, the Hindu prisoners did not ask for the allotment of a room. Jail Code rule 691 has recently been amended to provide for the appointment of both Hindu and Muhammadan teachers on a voluntary basis, but so far as Government are aware, no Hindu teacher has approached the authorities at Berhampore for such appointment. Should a suitable person present himself to the authorities, he would be appointed.

(*g*) and (*h*) It would appear from answer (*b*) that the allegation on which this question is based is not correct. It is true, however, that on the morning of January 1st six political prisoners refused their food. On the 2nd January, two of them broke their hunger-strike, but four continued. On the 5th January, one more broke his hunger-strike and three continued. One of these three is on hunger-strike substantially on the allegation made in this question. Another went on hunger-strike as a protest against wearing of prison kit. The third refused to discuss the basis on which he is prepared to give up hunger-strike. The latest report shows the following statement:—"The condition of the hunger-strikers is not unsatisfactory as observed by the medical officer of this jail. They have been taking sugar, water and lime juice."

(*i*) As regards the treatment of the prisoners who have refused to take ordinary diet, they have been dealt with by the Superintendent in strict accordance with the rules laid down by Government for such cases, and have been kept apart for purposes of observation and treatment and suitable food has been continually kept within reach and at their disposal.

(*j*) The jail staff took steps to persuade these hunger-strikers to break their fast; further Mr. Padmaraj Jain, Secretary to the Hindu Mahasabha, who approached Government with a prayer to be allowed to interview them to induce them to break their fast, was allowed to interview these prisoners. He and three of his friends interviewed the hunger-strikers on the 7th February last in order to influence and persuade them to break their fast. It appears from Mr. Padmaraj Jain's statement that only one of the prisoners is hunger-striking on the allegation of facility for worshipping the symbol of god Shiva. Every facility has been granted to relations to persuade them to break their fast.

(*k*) Yes.

Payment of grants to certain circle schools in Chittagong.

72. Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government grant under "Major Head—31, Minor Head—Direct grant to non-Government secondary schools—Controlling officer, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal" payable to the old circle schools in the Chittagong Division has been stopped since the middle of the current year?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of such middle English schools and junior madrasahs; and

(*ii*) the total amount of money that is going to be saved by this curtailment of grant?

(*c*) Is it a fact that when the management of these schools was entrusted to local committees, the Government promised them a fixed recurring grant in perpetuity?

(*d*) Is it a fact that recurring grant-in-aid to other high English and middle English schools in the Chittagong Division has not been stopped?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for the differential treatment meted out to these schools?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that by this stoppage of grant the schools concerned have been very hard hit?

(*g*) Are the Government considering the desirability of reconsidering their decision with regard to these few schools so far as this grant is concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) and (*b*) (*i*) Payment of grants to six circle schools in the Chittagong Division was postponed for six months. Steps are being taken to make these payments up to date and to avoid similar delay in future.

(*ii*) Nil.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes, as far as information is available.

League of Nations Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

73. MUNINDRA DEB RAI MAHASAI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether the Government have received any communication from the Educational Commissioner to the Government of India about opening an Indian Section of the League of Nations Committee on Intellectual Co-operation?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to communicate the views of this Government on the subject?

(*c*) If no views have yet been taken by this Government, are the Government considering the desirability of including adequate Library Service and suitable representation of Library workers at the Central Committee at the time of consideration of the communication?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) No communication was received from the Educational Commissioner, but the Government of India invited the opinion of this Government on (*i*) the desirability of arranging joint consideration of certain recommendations regarding the education of children in the existence and aims of the League of Nations and (*ii*) the creation of a National Committee in India to establish relations between India and the League's organisation for intellectual co-operation.

(*b*) The views of the Government of Bengal in regard to (*i*) were that the matter should be discussed at a joint meeting of the Directors of Public Instruction in India, and in regard to (*ii*) that an All-India Committee would be appropriate for the purpose.

(*c*) It is not proposed to make any further recommendations at present.

MUNINDRA DEB RAI MAHASAI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state his reasons for answer (*c*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: I have already answered.

Public libraries.

74. MUNINDRA DEB RAI MAHASAI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether any action has been taken on the resolution adopted at the last Calcutta session of the All-India Library Conference?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government intend to take any action in future?

(c) Are the Government considering the desirability of—

(i) issuing instructions to the inspecting staff of the department to visit the public libraries lying within their jurisdiction and advising the library authorities on the method of effecting improvements; and

(ii) drawing the attention of the local bodies to make suitable provision for libraries within their jurisdiction to foster adult education?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) (i) No.

(ii) No.

MUNINDRA DEB RAI MAHASAI: With reference to answer (a) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he has taken on the resolution of the All-India Library Conference?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: I must ask for notice.

MUNINDRA DEB RAI MAHASAI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why such a reasonable request has been refused?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: Libraries not receiving any grant from Government are not inspected; those libraries that are receiving such grants are naturally inspected, and there is no reason why special orders should be passed in respect of those not receiving grants. As regards local bodies, some of them, under the Act, can make such grants if they like; but I do not think that Government ought to interfere with the discretion of these local bodies.

Agricultural distress in Rajshahi Division.

75. Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to relieve the distress of the people of the Rajshahi Division due to the fall in the price of jute?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: During the current financial year, to relieve distress or to enable people to cultivate their lands, the sum of Rs. 4,20,000 has been allotted to the districts of the Rajshahi Division for agricultural loans, as noted below against each district:—

		Rs.
(1) Rajshahi	...	82,000
(2) Dinajpur	...	5,000
(3) Bogra	...	80,000
(4) Malda	...	29,500
(5) Pabna	...	1,55,000
(6) Jalpaiguri	...	4,000
(7) Rangpur	..	64,500
Total	...	4,20,000

Besides the amounts mentioned above Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 15,000 have been advanced to the district boards of Rangpur and Pabna, respectively, for carrying on test-relief works which were started by those district boards.

Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the local bodies consider the Government grant adequate?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I believe so.

Payment of revenue and cesses by landholders in Mymensingh.

78. Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department been drawn to a resolution passed by the Landholders' Association, Mymensingh, requesting the Government to suspend the realisation of Government revenue and cesses up to January, 1932, on the ground that owing to economic and other reasons the tenants in that district are withholding payments of their rents and cesses to the landholders throughout the district and the landlords have been therefore rendered unable to pay the Government revenue on sunset days?

(*b*) If so, what steps, if any, are being taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) It appears no copy of the resolution mentioned was received by the Revenue Department.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Rai Bahadur KESHAB CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if he is aware of any such resolution being passed by the Landholders' Association?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: No, I do not remember seeing any such.

Rai Bahadur KESHAB CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if he is aware of any similar resolution being passed by the Landholders' Association elsewhere?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I have nothing further to add.

Use of books by the pupils of private schools not included in the approved list of text-books.

77. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state the reasons for the issue of a circular by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, to the effect that if unaided private schools use any books not included in the approved list of text-books, their pupils shall be disqualified from holding Government scholarships?

(*b*) Has it been ascertained that objectionable books are prescribed as text-books in unaided private schools?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the books which have come to his knowledge?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, circulated to Inspectors a copy of certain of the Text-Book Committee Rules which affected unaided schools. One of them (No. 23) states, "Candidates from an unaided school are liable to be excluded from competition for a Government scholarship if text-books, which are not on the authorised list, are in use in the school in question."

(*b*) No.

Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what Government scholarships he is referring to here?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: Government are considering the re-wording of the rule that has been referred to here. I suggest that no further questions should be asked until the wording of the rule has been recast.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: May I point out that (*a*) has not been answered at all, not satisfactorily answered. With due submission to you, Sir, I say that the question has not been satisfactorily answered. If a satisfactory answer is given, I would not have argued at all; but when an unsatisfactory answer is given, might we not ask for a proper answer?

Mr. PRESIDENT: You can put supplementary questions to clear up the mist, but you cannot criticise an answer.

Vending of excise shops within Howrah town.

78. Dr. AMULYA RATAN GHOSE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries (Excise) Department be pleased to state whether the opinions of the Commissioners of the respective wards of the Howrah municipality were invited before the renewal of licences to the vendors of different excise shops, e.g., wine, toddy, *ganja*, etc., within the town of Howrah?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table copies of the opinions of the individual Commissioner in each case?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of the Commissioners and their wards who did not give any opinion in the matter;

(*ii*) the names of such Commissioners and their wards as sent their opinions in support of the grant of licences to the excise shops; and

(*iii*) the names and addresses of the owners of the excise shops who have been granted new licences for their shops?

MINISTER in charge of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) Yes, it is the practice every year.

(*b*), (*c*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Government are not prepared to give any information in regard to the opinions of the individual Commissioner in each case.

(*iii*) No new licence for any excise or opium shop has been granted in the Howrah municipality during 1930-31, nor is there any proposal to grant any such new licence for the year 1931-32.

Search of 'Cuddees' of certain Marwari gentlemen at Calcutta.

79. Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department aware that on the 27th of July, 1930, the *guddees* of eighteen respectable Marwari gentlemen including a member of this Council were searched and their books of account were seized by the police, and they were subsequently put on trial?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that this action was taken on the complaint of a person who has been held by the Chief Presidency Magistrate to be a man of straw?

(*c*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member been drawn to the judgment of the Chief Presidency Magistrate in which he observed that "that this was essentially a case for prior inquiry by the police, and a wholesale issue of search warrants for the books of these firms was unjustified on the basis of the vague petition"?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of taking any disciplinary action against the Magistrate who was responsible for issuing the said search warrants?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of allaying the public feeling that exists by giving an assurance that there will be no repetition of similar orders in future?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) No. Government can give no assurance on matters of judicial discretion.

Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Government approve of the action taken by the Magistrate?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: The Executive Government do not interfere with the orders or discretion of the judiciary.

Mr. B. C. CHATTERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to tell us when he hopes for a remedy against this sort of thing? Does any appeal lie to the High Court in a matter like this?

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: Mr. Chatterjee is an expert lawyer who can advise on this much better than I can.

General discussion of the Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1931-32.

Khan Sahib Maulvi BAZLUL HUQ: Mr. President, Sir, I take the privilege to say a few words on the budget. It shows a lamentable lack of real sympathy for the economic uplift of the country. It betrays beyond shadow of doubt Government's apathy to render any substantial help to the millions of dumb population—I mean the meek and helpless cultivators. No attempt has been made to control the prices of jute and to save the producers from the clutches of the unscrupulous middlemen. We expected that Government will surely avert the crisis by devising means for their rescue. But we have been much disappointed. The usual plea of paucity of fund cannot stand in the way if there were real intention. Government will be able to meet the heavy budget deficit - a deficit of not 10 or 20 lakhs of rupees—but of hundreds of lakhs of rupees—but will not be able to find out money to save the hungry jute growers from the exploitation of greedy traders and their commission agents. This plea, if advanced, will have no legs to stand. If you breakdown the backbones of these people you will be shattering to pieces the backbone of the nation.

Next comes the question of amendment of some of the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act relating to payment of *salami* on transfer of occupancy-raiyati holdings and rights of pre-emption. It is indeed surprising to find that Government joined hands with the Swarajist members of this House to defeat Mr. J. L. Bannerjee's resolution on the subject last year. It is equally surprising to find that the Swarajist members, almost all of whom entered the Council Chamber with the help of these ignorant raiyats, conveniently forgot them and their cause. Mysterious are the ways indeed. During the debate on Mr. Bannerjee's resolution the Hon'ble Member held that if the law be allowed to stand people will be accustomed to it and the revenue fall of Rs. 37 lakhs under "Stamp and Registration" will increase. Indeed he saw a bright future. We only wished for the

realisation of his hopes. But, alas, it remained still unrealized. For we find under the receipt side of the head "Stamp" actual amount realized in 1929-30 to be Rs. 1,01,10,110 against this amount Rs. 1,13,00,000 were budget for the year 1930-31. This last figure had to be reduced to Rs. 83,00,000 on revision. Last year there were 17 to 18 lakhs of rupees deficit in revenue under this head. This year also we find the same amount of deficit under the very head, if, of course, the anticipated revised budgeted amount be realized in full. The same is the case with respect to receipts under "Registration." The Hon'ble the Finance Member has admitted in his note at the foot of the budget statement that the deficit is partly the result of amended Bengal Tenancy Act. I congratulate the Hon'ble Member for his frankness.

It may be argued from some interested quarters that the fall in revenue is due to world-wide trade depression and to civil disobedience movement. But, Sir, we are in close touch with the people—see directly what is happening in the mufassal—know directly what are the feelings of the mufassal people and thus in a better position to judge. Sir, these provisions of the Act have brought in untold miseries on the poor tenants. The price of land has appreciably gone down and in spite of it, the seller has to pay the landlords' fees at 20 per cent. from the sale-proceeds. He has also to satisfy the illpaid *amlas* of the zamindar as otherwise the engine of oppression—I mean the right of pre-emption—will be set in motion. Over and above the seller has to meet the heavy transmission costs of landlords' fees and heavy stamp duty besides other incidental costs. The hungry seller after all finds to his surprise that only a paltry sum remains in his hand. These are the plain truths and I relate them to you for your sound and mature judgment. I assure you, Sir, that the revenue on these heads will not increase and even if the civil disobedience movement be called off and the trade depression ceases. The Hon'ble Revenue Member assured us that the question of amendment will be considered on the receipt of the current year's revenue statement and so the millions of hungry raiyats are on their tip-toes of expectations. Will he not honour the sacred words fallen from his lips?

Looking to the expenditure side we find some big items of expenditure which could be easily avoided if the authorities only wished.

Sir, one is surprised to find lack of sympathy of the Government for the nation-building departments. The Hon'ble popular Ministers have been mercilessly put in an awkward position. For no money has been placed at their disposal to meet popular demands calculated to improve the condition of the country educationally, economically and physically.

The Co-operative is the only department in the portfolio of Agriculture which is rendering service to the rural people. But it is a pity that no sum has been placed at the disposal of the department for its

expansion and representation in unrepresented area and to meet the full demands of the co-operation to extricate them from the hands of the exacting mahajans and to effectively lower the usurious rates of interest still prevailing.

The Departments of Agriculture and Industries are the most top-heavy departments and require immediate overhauling if real business is meant. Some of the fat salaried posts should be immediately abolished and money thus relieved should be utilised in serving people's interest directly. Money should be found out any how, by loans, curtailment of expenditure on heavy luxurious civil work projects and retrenchments, which can be safely and conveniently effected in the departments concerned, for supply of scientific manures, seeds, implements of husbandry—for opening experimental and demonstration farms in every important centres in the district and putting agricultural officers in every district and trained demonstrators recruited not from the *bhadralok* class as hitherto done—but from the cultivating class.

3 p.m.

Sir, cultivation is for the cultivators and their *guru* also must be cultivator—must be a person whose forefathers were cultivators—whose main profession is nothing but cultivation—who do not feel it a shame to jump into the field barefooted and extend his helping hand to the ignorant *chasas* in knee-deep mud and water. I highly deprecate the recruitment from the *bhadralok* class—a class which always hates the cultivators—a class which thinks it beneath its dignity to touch plough not to speak of ploughing—a class which has no idea about cultivation, not to speak of experience—a class which has no sympathy for the cultivators; what benefit, Sir, can be expected from this class of demonstrators is beyond our comprehension.

Sir, we have some demonstrators but they have nothing to demonstrate. Their only duty, it appears, is to collect and prepare jute forecast and sometime to *salaam* the chief executive officers of the station. When this is done, the day's work is finished. There should be a guiding and supervising agency over them. They should be conveniently placed under the control of the district and local boards if there be no agricultural officers in the station. They should have definite routine daily works outlined by the department.

Sir, every year we find flood and *ubra* (a kind of disease) to destroy paddy plants—leaving vast fields without a single plant to yield corn. No step has yet been taken to eradicate these evils. What the Director of Agriculture with his several assistants enjoying fat salary ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,250 a month is doing? The poor tax-payers have a right to know.

Sir, the quality of the cattle is deteriorating day by day. No effective steps have yet been taken to improve their condition. Hundreds of cattle are dying every year. The Veterinary Department could do nothing on the plea that no medicine has yet been invented for certain class of diseases and that they possess no medicines. There is no officer to watch them.

Sir, the budget should be so framed as to be appealing and acceptable to all but the present budget sadly lacks in them.

In the "Education" head we find drastic cuts. The budgeted amount for the current year was Rs. 1,34,71,000 which has been reduced on revision to Rs. 1,29,26,000. We find a further reduction in the next year's allotment, a reduction of a magnificent sum of above 5 lakhs of rupees. The cry of the people to pay more attention to education is a cry in the wilderness and the demand of the people has been met by curtailment of funds. No money has been provided for preliminary expenses in connection with free and compulsory primary education. The amount for grants-in-aid to private secondary schools has been cut down. No provision has been made to elevate the condition of the educationally backward communities. The grants to non-Government primary schools and to local bodies for primary schools have been mercilessly cut down. Money is not forthcoming for education of the children of the backward communities which form at least 90 per cent. of the entire population of Bengal. No provision has been made to render real help to the cause of education of the Moslems who form more than 50 per cent. of the population; you cannot do away with Moslem education if you really mean salvation of the country and all-round improvement. I believe there is none in this House of Dr. Moonjee's temperament regarding Moslem interests. The two great communities must live side by side and must be allowed to grow and become equal, educationally, economically and politically, so that they may shoulder the responsibilities of united Bengal harmoniously and efficiently otherwise no real unity will be possible, no unity will be permanent and no quarrel will end.

Some special State scholarships for training in foreign countries and some more district scholarships should be provided for really deserving Moslem youths. Reduced fee rates in schools and colleges should be allowed to Moslem boys who are proverbially poor and who on account of their own folly have allowed their quota of State patronage to be enjoyed by others in the past. The demand is moderate and I hope no one will grudge it.

Sir, after a deep slumber of about two centuries Government have at last found the necessity of making primary education free and compulsory. In the teeth of opposition the Bill has been passed into law.

In consideration of the importance of the measure, the ill-clad, half-fed, poverty-stricken people agreed to bear the major part of the expenditure, but it is much to be regretted that the Government displays, through the budget, a lamentable lack in earnestness. Even in deficit budget money is available for avoidable schemes but no money is forthcoming for the most pressing and crying popular demand! No will, no way.

Sir, next allow me to dwell on public health, sanitation and water-supply. Thousands of people are carried away every year by kala-azar, malaria, cholera and other fell diseases but no steps worth mentioning have yet been taken and the amount placed under these heads for real help is too insignificant to meet the requirements of 4½ crores of men. We have charitable dispensaries but the amount allotted for medicine purpose is too small and inadequate. Are not these mufassal dispensaries sham institutions? If you compare the number of patients attending these dispensaries and the cost incurred for supply of medicine you will be convinced that the cost per head will not exceed the magnificent sum of a pice. What then do the needy patients get? Nothing but *aqua pura*. Princely amounts are spent for palatial buildings and for salaries of staff but alas! no money is available for real works—the needs and necessities! and who would not condemn this sort of administration?

The question of rural water-supply is one of the burning topics of the day. But similar treatment we find here also. The money provided is ridiculously small and the rigid condition of local condition stands in the way. People are paying a most heavy road cess, why then local contribution again? The authorities should consider that scarcity of water is prevalent in the area inhabited by poor people—people who have no means, and an imposition of local contribution means denial of State patronage. A suitable amount should be earmarked for free distribution.

Babu SATISH CHANDRA RAY CHOWDHURY: Sir, I can hardly congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member on the way he has exercised the privilege of framing the budget presented to us, or on the policy underlying the exercise of the same privilege termed by himself as "doubtful".

The budget nowhere bears any mark of care, forethought, and foresight, and taken as a whole shows an utter disregard for the principles of sound economy and economics. Nor did the realities of the general economic situation in the country appeal to him as we expected they would. The budget shows the reckless unconcern for the revenue deficits which has become traditional with the Government of Bengal since the Montford Reforms. The reforms ushered in an era of huge and ruinous expenditure due to top-heavy administration with its many

commitments and obligations and an extended though impotent Legislature. The cry of the reform child at its very birth was a cry for more gold. The reformed Government therefore came forward with three taxation Bills which not being enough they also appointed a Retrenchment Committee to devise ways and means of reducing expenditure. Taxation and retrenchment both were thus felt necessary and imperative to keep the machinery working. The co-operating Council of the day was lured into giving its consent to the passing of the taxation Bills by specious promises on the part of the Government, that the excess revenue thus obtained would be spent on the nation-building departments—promises which as everybody knows have never been fulfilled. That however is another matter. The recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, which was composed of men of great business talents and vast official experience, were shelved. The inequitous Meston settlement needs no special mention. The result has been a chronic state of financial deficit and a stagnation of all nation-building activities complained of from time to time by Ministers and Councillors. The administrative machinery was kept going by clumsy makeshifts and devices. A serious attempt has never been made to build up a permanent balance by adjusting revenue expenditure to revenue receipts. The result has been an utter breakdown at the very first touch of a trade depression.

To bring the point vividly before the House I would illustrate my observation by referring to the budget presented to the Madras Council. There in 1929-30 they had a closing balance of Rs. 5·37 crores with a surplus of Rs. 1·24 crores. Then in 1930-31 there was a deficit of Rs. ·56 crores leaving a closing balance of Rs 3·91 crores but they have framed the budget of 1931-32 so as to reduce that deficit to Rs. ·09 crores. The observation of the Finance Member in this connection is most important. He says: "To adjust more closely the revenue receipts and revenue expenditure should be the main object of our policy, *balance or no balance*. It is essential that we should do this if the financial credit of the province is not to suffer detriment." As a striking contrast to this we are complacently assured by the Hon'ble Finance Member of Bengal that the meagre balance of Rs. 44 lakhs will completely disappear next year. The Hon'ble Member has only pursued the traditional policy of unconcern of the Bengal Government for revenue deficits. This policy may, in the present instance, have received added strength from the conviction that a national Government will in the near future succeed to these legacies of debts and insolvencies. I have said that this problem of deficits is not new in Bengal. It has only been deepened and accentuated by the world-wide depression.

The civil disobedience movement can hardly be said to be responsible for any deficit of revenue in Bengal. I join issue with the Hon'ble Member when he seeks to fasten the responsibility for any loss of revenue on that movement. The budget figures themselves give a convincing

reply. In 1930-31 the fall in revenue of the several important items as compared with the actuals of 1929-30 are as follows:—

	Per cent.
Excise revenue	20
Stamps	20
Forest	22
Registration	25
Administration of Justice	25
Jails and Convict Settlements	19

So much to the credit or discredit of the civil disobedience movement in Bengal. On the expenditure side this movement is made an excuse for the increase in the Police grant of 1930-31 of about Rs. 11 lakhs over the actuals of 1929-30. But the budget figures from 1927-28 onwards show that it has been a systematic policy with the Government to increase Police grant every year by Rs. 10 to Rs. 14 lakhs. The increase in 1930-31 according to the revised estimate was rather Rs. 3 lakhs less than the increase in 1929-30. Where then is the contribution of the civil disobedience movement towards this increase?

Leaving aside the question of the effect of the civil disobedience movement the principles followed in revising the estimates for 1930-31 and framing the figures for 1931-32 deserve the greatest condemnation. The ratio of allotment between the transferred and the reserved sides is an old unredressed grievance. Roughly for 1931-32 it is two-thirds for the reserved side and one-third for the transferred. Our Ministers and the Executive Councillors form a happy family of seven. The Ministers together are to get the sisters' share, and the Executive Councillors together the brothers' share as under the Muhammadan law. Coming to details of pruning in the revised estimates for 1930-31, the orthodox method of pruning the expenditure on the transferred departments, such as Education, Medical, Agriculture and Public Health, has been followed with a vengeance. Considering the smallness of original grant for these departments there should not have been any reduction of the estimates under these heads.

3-45 p.m.

Sir, our expenditure on education per head of population is lowest among the civilised nations. Our expenditure on agriculture including the Zoological gardens is only 4 per cent. of the revenue derived from this source, and yet the economic salvation of our masses, which admittedly depends on the development of agriculture on modern lines, is always on the lips of our lords. Our industries are either dying or languishing for want of funds. We alone remain stationary amidst a

world-wide movement for nationalisation of industries and production on large scale by the introduction of electrical power distribution system, etc. Not to speak of European countries, even the other Indian provinces are far ahead of us with their schemes of industrial development. Is it not suicidal to apply the axe to these departments? If you are to keep up the face and semblance of a civilised Government you have got to assist the development of these nation-building departments at whatever cost.

Sir, in framing the estimates for 1931-32 the same policy and the same principle have been followed. What strikes one at the outset is the increased estimates of revenue receipts by Rs. 7,54,000 over the revised estimates for the current year, and the estimates of expenditure framed accordingly. No justification has been afforded for these increased estimates in the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Member. The budget statement, however, makes frequent references to the revival of trade as the only condition which can fulfil the hopes of increased revenue. I grant, Sir, that the authors of a budget cannot but have their own hopes or fears as the case may be in regard to matters such as these. But I ask if there has been during the last few months anything to sustain the hope of a speedy revival such as would increase the revenue returns. So far as jute is concerned the revival is bound to take a long time and in the earlier stages utterly inadequate. Then how are we to hope for an increased revenue from stamps, registration and other items? As for trade revival outside, I think most authorities who are competent to speak on this question, including the Finance Member of the Government of India, are far from sanguine. Even if optimism were not so untenable, I contend that the Finance Member of Bengal ought to be more cautious in his estimates than his *confreres* in other provinces or at the centre. The balance on which we are working is ridiculously low, and the slightest variation from estimates will upset the general financial position and hasten well-nigh a crisis. I do not think that these arguments did not enter the mind of the Hon'ble Member when he framed his estimates.

This optimism is due to a desire to avoid showing a far heavier deficit and also to provide for unnecessary grants like the Teesta bridge, the Bally bridge, roadways and footpaths and such other luxuries which might be postponed for better days. This to say the least is most unbusiness-like. When the revised estimates will come to be made our hopes of little increase of expenditure here and there in the nation-building departments will probably completely vanish and more and more pruning will leave a keen sense of disappointment in our minds.

Sir, it is not my intention to enter into the details. My object is only to show that a wrong financial policy, a bankruptcy of intellect and an utterly selfish outlook on the part of the Government have driven Bengal to the verge of ruin. Nothing but the initiation of a bold and

statesman-like financial policy can restore the financial credit of the province and save Bengal from ruin. As a business body the Government must inexorably stick to the fundamental principle of adjusting the expenditure to the revenue receipts.

Increase of revenue by any further taxation is out of the question. Retrenchment is then the only way open and that retrenchment to be effective must be an all-round one and must follow the lines of recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. The Hon'ble Mr. Marr would have found the Alladin's lamp if he had cared to search for it on the dusty shelves of the Secretariat, in the reports of the Retrenchment Committee and the Greaves Committee. Useless and sinecure posts reserved for fossilised officials, like the Commissionerships of Divisions, should be abolished. Expenditure on police must be reduced to the level of the pre-Reform days. Fat salaries whose values have suddenly doubled owing to the fall of the prices of commodities must be cut down in agreement with the Government of India wherever necessary, to a reasonable extent, if Bengal is to have a balanced budget at any time in the near future, unless of course the Government of India can be made to surrender a part of the Customs duties or the income-tax derived from Bengal, which concession seems now out of the question.

Do the Government feel any real sympathy for the population of Bengal, described as "patient" by the Hon'ble Finance Member? Can the high officials of Bengal not rise to the height of the little sacrifice which the country has the right to expect from them? Can the Government not trust more and more to our good-will and less and less on the strength of the police force? Can you not share with the impoverished masses of Bengal the burden of a costly civilisation which they have borne so long ungrudgingly till their backs are about to be broken? If you cannot do all these, I am afraid the day of reckoning will not be long in coming for yourselves as well as for ourselves.

Kumar SHIB SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Sir, as a representative of those who make the largest contribution to the revenue of the Government of Bengal—I mean the landholders of Bengal—I feel it incumbent on me to bring to the notice of the House, especially to that of the Treasury Benches, the precarious condition of the landholders of Bengal caused by general trade depression now prevailing in the country. Believe me, Sir, when I say that there are very few landlords in the whole of Bengal who have been able to collect even a quarter of their dues from their tenants during the course of the whole year. Such a state of affairs has been unknown to Bengal during the last 100 years or even more. It may seem strange, but it is a fact that even the owners of profitable and valuable estates have found it extremely difficult to raise loans on the security of their property. This may be due, either to the scarcity of ready cash in the land or to a sense of insecurity which seems

to have seized the capitalists. In any case, Sir, the landlords are in a terrible fix. There does not seem to be any prospect of a favourable change in the situation in the near future. Utter ruin stares them in the face and the whole class of landlords are now in a state of panic. Under the strict and stern sunset law they have to pay Government revenue before sunset on a fixed date, failing which their estates automatically go under the Government auctioneer's hammer. Confronted with such dire calamity their only hope now lies with the Government and on behalf of the landholders of Bengal I earnestly appeal to Government to come to their rescue. The condition of their peasantry too is pitiable, but under the ordinary law of the land, they can with immunity withhold payment of their dues for an indefinite period, while under the existing sunset law, there is no relief for the zamindars of Bengal. How and in what manner the Government can bring relief to them, I leave entirely in the hands of Government to devise. Sir, certain suggestions have been made to me and I state them for what they are worth. It has been suggested that the Government may arrange with the Imperial Bank of India to advance loans to the revenue-paying landlords to the extent of the Government revenue due from them at a reasonable rate of interest, or in the alternative, Government may borrow the amount and advance it to the landlords as a short-period loan at a higher rate of interest, making it a first charge on their estates. Sir, I implore the Government to meet the representatives of the landholders of Bengal and find out the way to save them from complete wreck. I also appeal for some smaller facilities from the Revenue Member in the shape of postponement of the survey and settlement operations and collection of settlement charges. Sir, I should further like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble the Revenue Member to the accumulation of something like Rs. 37 lakhs in the hands of Government on account of non-withdrawal of landlords' fees by the landholders. The chief reason for this non-withdrawal is the unpractical and unworkable procedure provided by the new Tenancy Act. A procedure which makes such state of things possible certainly requires an immediate overhauling and I hope and trust that the Hon'ble the Revenue Member would be pleased to take necessary action in the matter at once.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Sir, the very thinness of the House will convince any one that the financial statement of the Hon'ble Finance Member has fallen flat on us. It is a statement which neither satisfies anybody nor holds out any hope in our breasts. If I may be permitted to say so, it is a tedious production and as it lengthens out it becomes still more so.

Sir, looking into the budget proper, I notice that, while all other items have been denuded of their proper share, the only thing that has received favourable and liberal consideration at the hands of the Finance Member

is the Police Department; while all other items of expenditure have been cut down, the police expenditure has been allowed to increase to what was more than last year's sanctioned budget and somewhat nearer to the revised estimate. While we notice that even the Imperial Government have cut down their military estimate by Rs. 175 lakhs, the Police Department in Bengal has not thought it proper to cut down its figures. It is as if we are living in an atmosphere of battle—a tense war in which the Police force of the Government of Bengal, arrayed in procincts like the Roman legions of old, are allowed to make their charges on anybody who dares to defy their authority. They are like the legions of Lucullus and Pompey, or like the Columns of Antonius and Trojan, who at the bidding of their commanders would fall upon whoever they think are opposing them—with this difference that instead of sword thrust they make *lathi* charges (with apologies to the *lathi*) upon an unarmed crowd wherever and whenever they can find them. This is what the bare reading of the budget leads me to say. Sir, whatever power there may be behind the scene, I should think that the sinister shadow of the Hon'ble Member who is responsible for the Political Department sits athwart this budget. We find that even such an important nation-building department as Education has been denuded of at least four lakhs of rupees during the past year. While we hear complaints of the fall of revenues dwindling down almost to nothingness, we find that the following departments have received favourable consideration at the hands of the Finance Member: The administration of justice, the general administration, jails and convict settlements—in one word those departments which bring home to the people of Bengal the repressive policy of Government—have received favourable consideration at the hands of the unreformed Finance Member of the reformed Government; and this has been done at the present day in a budget which, to say the least of it, should have brought relief to the suffering departments and to the suffering people who from year's end to year's end, do not know—in the words of an eminent economist—what is a full-bellied meal.

4 p.m.

Coming to details we find that thousands of rupees are being spent on secret service. I cannot understand why the secret service is at all necessary, but the Hon'ble the Finance Member will say that there is the civil disobedience movement and Government have to preserve peace and order and to protect the people. This argument has been repeated *ad nauseum*. I know that there is the civil disobedience movement, but who is responsible for it? If Government had followed the policy of non-interference, I think, the Hon'ble Finance Member would have been able to present us with a more favourable budget. The Congress launched upon the civil disobedience movement about ten years ago, but till the Government adopted a policy of repression the movement did not turn

to be a formidable one. Had the Government not adopted this repressive policy, the movement would have died long ago. The movement has been roused to its present pitch by the repressive policy of Government, and it is repression alone which is responsible for it. I have no doubt that no sooner a better policy is adopted than the temper of the movement will also disappear. If you give offence to people for nothing, if you charge a harmless and non-violent crowd of processionists, they are sure to swell in number in order to give vent to their protest and anger and become unruly. It is the Government who have given an impetus to this movement. The less the argument for augmenting the police budget the better. These people are not so incorrigible as not to be amenable to reason. If they hold meetings and pass resolutions it will not take away from Government the power they wield. If Government ignore them, the movement will die of itself.

Coming to Excise, we find that the revenue has dwindled down. I do not think there is much to regret for it. Government ought to find out some means by which it might be possible to dispense with the excise revenue ultimately and adopt a progressive policy of prohibition. If you cannot do that, a total breakdown is bound to come some day or other.

The poor agriculturists of Bengal, whom the Bengal Tenancy Act has affected most, will find no solace in this budget. As already stated by some of my friends, the Bengal Tenancy Act has put upon the poor tenantry of Bengal an additional burden of paying a certain amount by way of cost of transmission of landlords' fees. If you consult the records of the Registration Department you will find that the ten per cent. fee of transmission have not been spent to the fullest extent and much of it is lying accumulated. It is an additional method of taxing the poor people. I find that this budget is a cheerless one and unless you adopt a saner policy and ensure a calm and peaceful atmosphere the situation is not going to improve.

Coming to General administration, we find that the expenditure has increased here also. This is unjustifiable on account of the jute depression that has been brought about during the last few months. The Hon'ble Finance Member has told us that there has been a record of jute production. This would have been a very cheerful thing in any other country, but here we find that a record drop in the price of jute has brought about the present financial depression. The members of the Treasury Bench responsible for the administration of the province ought to have taken timely notice of it and given facilities to the growers of jute for disposing of their produce in such a way as to give them a fair return and thereby benefit the revenues of the country as well, but instead of that they sat tight in their seats and sent files from one person to another. It is the mal-administration, it is the want of brain, it is the want of idea and want of vision and imagination that

has brought about the present state of affairs in the country. I should like to submit that if you want to carry on the administration of the country, you should show greater aptitude in rehabilitating the finances of the province.

Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur: I cannot congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member on his presenting a deficit budget of Rs. 1½ crores, but considering the present economic condition of the country or rather of the whole world I am glad to find that he has been able to make the two ends meet anyhow. Trade depression and consequent low prices have been rightly made responsible for the scarcity of money in the hands of the people but the situation in its entirety has been viewed by him more from the political than from the economic point of view. Deficit budgets are the order of the day all the world over, the situation in India having no doubt been complicated by the civil disobedience movement with the result that all the energies of the State are not bent on combating the economic menace as they ought to be. The present deficit is due mainly to trade depression. The Hon'ble Finance Member has observed that civil disobedience movement is one of the causes of the serious economic situation, but I do not think that the civil disobedience movement is the main cause of this economic distress in the country. Even if for argument's sake we take it for granted that the civil disobedience movement will be called off, then only a few heads of the budget will improve, *viz.*, stamps, registration, and so forth, but neither excise revenue nor the general condition of the country will improve thereby. Experts are of opinion that it will take at least two years to revive the old condition. The Finance Member has not made any suggestion as to how to meet this deficit effectively. In the present budget he has been able to make the two ends meet by borrowing, but this principle cannot be followed in future and cannot be accepted as the ordinary rule. Something should be done to meet the demands and this can only be done either by new taxation or retrenchment. The Taxation Inquiry Committee held that the taxing capacity of the people had been exhausted. So retrenchment should be done without further delay. The only question is how and where retrenchments can be made. My humble suggestion is that a committee of officials and non-officials with a non-official majority, as has been decided in the case of the Central Government, be appointed, as was done in 1921, to inquire into the condition of the country and to submit its views as to how and in what directions retrenchments can be made.

4-15 p.m.

I may at once say that I and many of my friends consider that the administration is top-heavy. I also find that the salaries have been

enhanced since the War. If you compare the pre-war prices with the present, you will find an increase of about thirty per cent. It is also a fact that allowances have also been increased considerably since the War. In spite of this fact, on page 206 of the budget you will see an item of "Compensation for dearness of foodstuffs" allowed this year. And the fun is that this has been increased by 25 per cent. this year, when the price of foodstuffs has dropped so much. Prices have come down, but still the compensation has been retained in the budget. This is how the budget is framed.

I associate myself with what the Kumar Sahib has said with regard to the revenue-paying estates. As one of the large landholders in the House, I beg to say that there has been a great drop in the price of foodstuffs all over Bengal, and the zamindars are finding it very difficult to realise their rents from their tenants. If the zamindars are pressed for payment they have no other alternative but to press for payment from their tenants in turn, which means that the tenants will be forced to sell their commodities at a very low price—in fact, without any profit to themselves at all. I consider that this is highly undesirable. I wonder if the Hon'ble Member in charge of Finance has ever considered this question, and will grant us some relief this time. I have already spoken to him on the subject, and he has shown great sympathy and has promised to consider the matter. I appeal to him to make some effort and take up the question seriously with regard to the payment of the revenue next time.

I beg to conclude with these few remarks.

[At 4-20 p.m. the Council was adjourned for prayer and it reassembled at 4-30 p.m.]

Rai Bahadur KESHAB CHANDRA BANERJI: Sir, in rising to speak on the budget, one cannot but bid good-bye to the feeling of optimism about the material prosperity of this unfortunate province. The budget has been presented with no concern for the teeming millions of Bengal; the figures of expenditure under the different heads show how indifferent the Treasury Bench can afford to be in regard to the interests of the children of the soil. I do not protest against the deficit of Rs. 1,39,57,000 pointed out by the Finance Member in his budget speech. I know there is the trade depression; I know there is the civil disobedience movement which has taxed severely the resources of Government. Grievances are not against facts; grievances are against the allotment of funds; complaint is against the way in which the budget has been balanced without due regard for public welfare. Sir, the budget should not merely be an estimate of receipts and expenditures and there should not be a tendency to expend more on emergency conditions. Budget, I would like to point out, should not follow the beaten heads of expenditure and expenses increased or decreased in

scorn of public interest. Successful desk work is of little help unless it is aided by sympathy and imagination and in these two virtues, the Members of the Treasury Bench have betrayed lamentable bankruptcy which is to be deeply deplored. The Finance Member cries, to quote his doleful language, "hitherto a closing balance of one crore of rupees has been regarded as the minimum margin of safety. It has in spite of drastic economies fallen well below that minimum and next year will see even our present small margin disappear".

What are the drastic economies? Public utility work must stop; the activities for the "welfare" of the police, jails, etc., would go on—rather they would increase. One crore and forty-seven thousand rupees would go to "education," a crore of rupees to Medical and Public Health departments; Rs. 27 lakhs to agriculture; Rs. 12·85 lakhs to industries. These figures will cause a weeping laughter in any civilised part of the world. Bengal boasts of a population of 46,695,536. The poverty of Bengal is grim; the health is menacing; illiteracy staggering; agriculture stagnant and industries undeveloped. All these are taken light-heartedly and finances are diverted to other directions. The budget allotments under the different heads mean that the respective departments will not be closed but their hands stayed; the Ministers will remain in office with no scheme to pursue; the people will be paying to the State Treasury without any corresponding benefit being derived from it.

Sir, I have not heard of any modern progressive State stopping the sale of health and education to its nationals for financial stringency; I have not seen welfare activities of the State starved and stopped; I have not seen agriculture and industries suffering with the sufferance of the State. Financial stringency is, of course, a handicap but is not insurmountable. Sir, my submission is that if you get a welfare scheme of your own prepared for the development of roads and buildings, removal of illiteracy and improvement of sanitation and agriculture and for the expansion of internal trade and commerce and pursue that scheme for a number of years by means of loans, I can assure you that the economic prosperity of the people will be a great asset to the State. It is not by helping the decimation of the population through epidemics, starvation and poverty, that you add a pie to the State; it is not by refusing education and shutting out improvements that you increase the financial resources of the Government; it is not by starving the nation that you can grow strong. Those primitive conceptions no longer hold the field. If you do not add to the economic prosperity of the country, nothing will be added to your treasury. It is not by taxing the people that the State treasury is filled; it is by giving them health, education, the benefits of scientific agriculture and by supplying various other economic needs and amenities of life that the resources of the State can be augmented. It is an elementary principle of political

economy that any expenditure by the State for the welfare of the people crystallises itself into a capital. Large public expenditures with an eye to the prosperity of the people are never wasted; they give a greater return than they would have under the other circumstances.

But, Sir, instead of making increased provisions for the nation-building departments which turn out to be a profitable and paying proposition in the long run, the budget shows an increase in expenditure on police, jails and other items akin to them. No one disputes the importance of administration, otherwise what are we here for? But if we find that the interest of law and order is crowding out all other interests and swallowing up the revenue, then, the store of generosity that we maintain in ourselves becomes exhausted. My complaint, Sir, is not against the police but against the prodigal waste of public money on their account; Sir, we want law and order undoubtedly, but we object to life and mind being bled white for their sake. I wish to bring this fact to the prominent notice of the Hon'ble the Finance Member that mere administration is unproductive and uncreative and, if I am allowed to use a metaphor, I must say that mere administration is a steam-roller, "formidable in its weight and power, having its uses but it does not help the soil to become fertile". Law and order have been given extra prominence and the budget confirms the suspicion that the Treasury Bench is concerned more with the administration of the country than anything else. Such a primitive conception of the State in the year of grace 1931 is to be highly regretted. It is the budget which exposes the character of the administration; it is the budget which affords the key to the working of the minds of our rulers; it is the budget which lays bare the whole story of the State's activities. But, Sir, I must tell you that the Government, by exhibiting no skill and ingenuity in framing the budget, have betrayed their character. By starving and betraying the nation-building departments, the Government have starved and betrayed the people and it requires only a little thought to convince all, that they have thereby starved and betrayed themselves. My misery is the State's misery and my prosperity is the prosperity of the State—that is the ultimate proposition. By ignoring the people and considering only the administrative aspect of the question, great injustice has been done to both the rulers and the ruled.

In spite of the protest from the Treasury Bench, I hold that our Governmental machinery is a top-heavy one and economies might have been effected there. No attempt at reducing expenditure in administration has been made; no proposals of retrenchment have been enunciated; the balancing of the budget has been done by an effort to starve the nation-building departments and by keeping in abeyance projects in which the poor tax-payer is vitally interested. I do not know, Sir, how the Ministers have relished the budget—they will perhaps have no programme to follow except their programme of tour.

I do not wish to go into details to-day. I am not a financial expert and I confess I do not understand the art of juggling with figures. I have, therefore, tried to confine my observations to broad principles only. Sir, I appreciate the difficulties of the Government in dealing with the situation which is responsible for the severe strain on the State exchequer. These are facts and there is no help for them, although there may be difference of opinion in regard to the methods employed in coping with the civil disobedience and other similar movements. Regarding the working of the reserve and transferred departments, I reserve my comments. It will be seen that the reserve departments on the plea of law and order became unduly extravagant; the nation-building departments on the old plea of financial stringency were administered in a way which is, to use a very mild expression, unsatisfactory. If money could be procured for special tribunals and for dealing effectively with detenus, why could nothing be done for the improvement of agriculture? Does anybody seriously suggest that agriculture is much less important to Bengal than anything else? We have an apology of an Agricultural Department with "experts" carrying on research work in the Laboratory at Dacca, but what is the result of their labours? Have they succeeded in bringing home to the ignorant cultivator the benefits of scientific agriculture? Have we ever seen the law and order departments being starved for want of funds? "Never, never," but in the case of agriculture, it will always be "ever, ever." And these tragic and epic sufferings of the dumb millions of Bengal have generated the forces of disaffection which necessitate undue expenditure on the departments of law and order. If you satisfy the people, there will no longer be the necessity of incurring these expenses. Thus the best economy lies not in ignoring the peoples' claims and in increasing expenditure on police and special tribunals but in doing something which will satisfy the people. This will mean an automatic fall in expenditure on items to which objection is raised. At a stage when Provincial Autonomy has been promised by the Premier, what record shall we leave to our successors? Deficit budget is not the point at issue but the starvation of the nation-building departments is the point of our grievance. If the nation is starved and ruined, what shall we do with the departments and the gentlemen presiding over them? I do not fear extravagance because that can be remedied, but I fear the exhaustion of the resources of the country which is being brought about by the starvation of the people who represent the true capital of the country.

Before I resume my seat, I must, in spite of all that has been stated above, thank the Hon'ble the Finance Member for the trouble he has taken to balance the budget, but at the same time I would like to observe that his endeavours would have been more appreciated if he had followed the example of the Members of the British Cabinet at

Home and come up with the budget after effecting a reduction of salaries and distributing the savings to the nation-building departments.

4-45 p.m.

Maharaja JAGADISH NATH RAY, of Dinajpur: Mr. President, Sir, the "doubtful privilege" of my friend the Hon'ble Member in charge of Finance, who is unfortunately absent now, made me hesitate not a little in participating in this discussion, as I was myself not quite sure of its usefulness. But be this practice of a general discussion of the budget a relic of the past, or be it a fruitful source from which the Finance Member might or might not draw his inspiration for future guidance, our duty is plain so long as we are here. We must not be found wanting in an endeavour to put our view of the thing, however irksome it may sometimes appear to be.

Circumstanced as we are to-day with lowering clouds on all sides, we can neither look upon my friend's budget speech nor upon the financial statement presented by him as things well worth congratulation. We had a foretaste of the situation in His Excellency's address on the opening day of this session, but here we are brought face to face with far greater difficulties than we could think of. I might, however, say that if we were not altogether indifferent to our surroundings, the present position could as well be partly foreseen on the very day when the Finance Member held out before our eyes, some 12 months ago, the "immediate prospect" of "relief from past penury". What with the loud cries of the unofficial members on such a day as this, and what with their well-meaning attempts to put brakes here and there, the gigantic wheels of Government moved mechanically in their own old grooves.

Sir, the last year's budget was also, in fact, a deficit budget, and it is no wonder that we are threatened this time with total bankruptcy in the near future. But whatever may happen to the country, it is somewhat distressing to contemplate that one should be drowned in his self-excavated tank. How very very long ago the master-minds on both sides cautioned the Government against the idea of deriving a permanent income from what was generally called *Abkari* in those days!

Although I am somewhat pained to find that our good friend's robust optimism has received a sudden set-back, I can never conscientiously share in his desire for an increase in the excise revenue. We all heard him cursing the "subversive movement" repeatedly in the course of his masterly presentation, the other day. This dangerous movement has no doubt affected the finances of the Government and has let loose forces which, if not called back at once, may spell ruin to many of us in the country. But I am almost sure that even if the authors of the present movement decide wisely to cry halt at once or if

the movement be ultimately crushed and suppressed by others in the alternative, the more peaceful national current, that has to go on in the country and which has received the blessings of the Government in an unmistakable way, will ever include in its programme a campaign against the evil of drinking and drug-taking.

Although the income from "Stamp" may never be regarded as a questionable revenue, the people of course can legitimately congratulate themselves if the loss of revenue from that source means less litigation among them. But I do not think that "Registration" or "Stamp" has been affected in any way by popular excitement or by any wilful abstention on the part of the litigious public from taking recourse to law, excepting so far as politics of this nature may have a bearing on the general economic condition of the people. I am, however, vastly amused to find that congratulations are already being showered upon the Finance Member from a section of the Press for his open declaration regarding the severe effect of the civil disobedience movement on the revenues from excise, stamp and registration. Is it not high time that the Government should seriously think of other avenues of income and let alone the Department of Excise to do better work than it has been doing at present? Sir, if the Finance Member, or the entire Local Government for the matter of that, should still be counting upon a lessening of the strength of civil disobedience for a sure jump-up of their revenue receipts, without taking any initiative to relieve the present distress and to increase the purchasing power of the masses, besides making a magnificent offer of Rs. 15 lakhs in two years as loan, I have nothing else but to think that they sadly lack pre-vision and an all-round vision. They are admittedly the two prime qualities which a budget-maker must necessarily possess.

Now, when I talk of the heads of revenue, I cannot ignore Land Revenue altogether. The Hon'ble the Finance Member has been pleased to say that the deficiency of ready money—caused, according to him, mostly by "the bountifulness of Nature"—is directly reflected in Land Revenue among other things; but it is, he says, only confined to the estates directly under Government management. Sir, it would have soothed many a heart in the present critical times, if our friend had mentioned in this connection what supreme effort the unfortunate land-holders of the country have been making to meet the sunset demands of the Government. Belonging as I do to a much-maligned lot and learned as I am in the past tragic history of my family, I am perforce prepared for any contingency; but I feel greatly perplexed when the smaller landholders of my constituency, finding no ways of even incurring a loan on any terms whatever, ask me in piteous tones to espouse their cause in this Council as well as in the Government House near by.

I have dealt with the revenue side in greater detail than I had originally planned to do. I am glad, however, to find that the

expenditure side necessitates very little talk on my part. Some of my distinguished friends will have, of course, their rusty old knives brightened in the meantime for applying them assiduously on the outgrowths in demands for grants. But it is as clear as anything that the malignant cancer, that showed in the past a tendency to extend itself and consume all the limbs of the body, will of a certainty prove too much for all attempts at removal until the constitutional change, that has been foreshadowed, is effected to the eternal credit of our British rulers. For our present purposes, it is sufficient to remember that the closing balance of a little less than two crores of rupees is said to end in a closing balance of about Rs. 45 lakhs, according to the revised estimate; and there would be no balance left at the end of 1931-32. But to have budgeted for a deficit of one crore and forty lakhs is itself an achievement! Is it not useless to calculate what portion of the estimated expenditure of twelve crores and about twenty-six lakhs of rupees has been allotted to the different heads of public utility? And is it not sheer madness to ask for more liberal grants for any purpose, however laudable it may be? I do not therefore go into all that.

I have only to say, in fine, that in spite of the many huge stumbling figures that have found place in the budget speech, the Hon'ble Mr. Marr has made it quite entertaining by his happy humorous reference to the resourceful activities of a genius in the *Arabian Nights* as well as by his interesting description of the *bania*-like propensities of the mighty Government of India.

5 p.m.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Sir, I think the Hon'ble Finance Member can claim our sympathy and commisseration for the unkind manner in which Fate has dealt with him and Nature seems to have combined with Man in upsetting his calculations about the revenues of the province and have left us in the perilous position which his budget speech disclosed. If it is any comfort to us that the rest of India, if not the whole of the civilised world, is under the shadow of an acute financial depression, we have no doubt that consolation. I have no desire, however, to minimise the grave responsibility which rests on those who are pursuing activities which have already disturbed the economic equilibrium of the country with such disastrous consequences and which are in danger of seriously undermining the very foundations on which the agricultural and commercial prosperity of all civilised countries rest. It is sincerely to be hoped, that wiser counsels will prevail and an honourable peace will be proclaimed and the country will turn its attention to its normal activities in fields of commerce and industry and thus help us to regain our economic equilibrium. Nevertheless, Sir, I submit that in examining the financial position of this province, it is

necessary to differentiate between temporary obstacles and difficulties which we hope will soon pass away from those which are of a more permanent nature and which for a series of past years have so cruelly crippled and handicapped this province. For, although it may be true that the amount of the deficit in revenue in the present year and the anticipated deficits in the forthcoming year are not much heavier than those of the sister provinces of India, yet it will be noticed that all the major provinces of India are still able to discharge their nation-building responsibilities on a far ampler scale than we can in this province. Sir, last year when discussing the budget I had occasion to refer at some length on the extremely unfavourable position in which this province has been placed with regard to all the nation-building departments of administration, such as agriculture, sanitation, public health, education and co-operation as compared with the other provinces and traced our misfortune to the same pivotal cause of our continuous and cruel financial starvation at the hand of the central Government. Last year I had also occasion to observe that having regard to the momentous changes in the future constitution which are imminent, the Finance Member might well have taken the opportunity of making a comprehensive survey of our unsatisfactory financial position during the era which is about to close, and called upon the House to support him in a firm demand for the recognition by the proper authorities of the just claim of Bengal for a fairer financial appropriation of her revenues. Sir, I am sure nobody will question the overwhelming importance of this issue and I do not think any apology is necessary for repeating the same observations to-day. There cannot be any difference of opinion either in this House or amongst the thinking public of Bengal, that without the provision of ampler funds the devolution of larger political powers to the people will be but a barren gift But while there cannot be any difference of opinion either as regards the justice of our claim or the fundamental character of this issue in connection with the efficient working of any scheme of civilised administration in this province, there may be some difference of opinion as to whether there will be any practical advantage in the members of this House taking up the consideration of this question at the present stage or in Government appointing a strong committee of the members of the House, both official and non-official, to examine the question fully with a view to making suitable recommendations. It may be urged that the formation of such a committee may be somewhat premature, as on the one hand all available materials may have already been carefully examined and Government may not have any fresh materials to place before such a committee, and on the other the question of the appropriation of revenue amongst the provinces was hardly touched upon by the Round Table Conference and no indication has been given regarding the principles which will guide future decision of this all-important question, whether Mr. Layton's recommendation of allocation of funds

on a population basis will be accepted or some other more complex principle will be adopted. In my humble judgment, however, it is of the utmost importance that Government should proceed at once to appoint such a committee and the committee should set to work with the least possible delay. The committee which examined this question in previous years is no longer in existence and I am sure that it will be no reflection on the labours of that committee if we, who have no knowledge of what materials were placed before that committee and what use they made of them, now express a desire that we should take over due share of the heavy responsibility which rests on all members of this House in this all-important matter. It seems to me that having regard to the obvious intention of His Majesty's Government to complete all preliminaries as speedily as possible with a view to ushering in the new constitution with the least possible delay, we in this House will not be too early if we take up the consideration of this all-important question at the present stage; but if we defer action we may be in danger of being too late. We should also remember that in view of the Federal scheme of the future Indian constitution when the autonomous provinces will have to be more self-reliant than they are at present, this problem will assume a far greater importance. What we wish to press for is that Bengal, the richest province in India, with the largest population among the provinces, should not be left in the present position of abject poverty, when she finds the greatest difficulty in meeting the most elementary needs of the administration and when all the nation-building departments have to be systematically starved.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Member has said that the strictest economy has been observed to meet the heavy deficit in revenue which the unfavourable conditions at present prevailing in the province have brought about. But, Sir, I like to point out, that it is not the postponement of this work and that work only which is called for; but a drastic curtailment of all superfluous expenses in connection with the present system of top-heavy administration is urgently called for. Without any intention of making any personal reflection, I consider it my duty, to voice once more on this occasion what is undoubtedly the universal feeling of all educated men of Bengal, that the people of this province cannot afford any longer to continue to pay the extravagant wages of their servants in high places, while the most essential needs of the people are being so continuously and shamefully starved. I had occasion, not long ago, to point out how lamentably short Bengal's allotment of funds is for such important departments such as Education, Irrigation, Agriculture and Public Health, compared with other major provinces of India, and I was startled to read in Sir Daniel Hamilton's informing little book on "New India" that while the Punjab spends 9 pies in the rupee per head of the population, Bombay 5½ pies per head, and Madras 3½ pies, poor Bengal can afford to spend only 1½ pies per

head on the all-important department of Co-operation, on which the welfare of the vast majority of the people of the province so vitally depends.

Sir, it is not long ago that in addressing the House on the promised scheme of a self-governing India I had the occasion to remark that the new scheme is chiefly valuable because it will give us the power by which we shall be able to raise the standard of the moral and material condition of the people and unless we apply ourselves steadfastly to that great task, the whole scheme of the democratic government of 350 millions of people must inevitably break down. But in order to be able to approach this task with any hope of success the first essential is that the province must receive a parity of treatment with the other major provinces regarding her revenues and be placed in a position of financial solvency. The second essential is that the present top-heavy scheme of the administration must be ruthlessly pruned, all other demands yielding to the clamant and imperious need of a rapid and substantial upward rise in the moral and material condition of the people. I commend these observations to the attention not only of the Government of to-day but to the future Government which will take its place to-morrow.

Babu SATYENDRA NATH ROY: Sir, if we non-official members of the Council have year after year raised our loud voices demanding adequate grants for the transferred departments in years of prosperity, and if we raised them in vain, is it worth while raising our voices to-day, asking for more funds for those departments when the Hon'ble the Finance Member has come before us with a deficit budget?

But as it is our privilege to avail ourselves of this opportunity to say a few words not only regarding the budget and the financial policy of Government but also regarding its general policy I would speak a few words.

I would first take up the excise policy of Government. That policy has all along been the subject of severe criticism both inside and outside this Council and this policy has in my humble opinion been rightly condemned by the Congress, although I may not agree with all the methods adopted by them to bring about the objective. I was told last year that revenue from excise brought in as much as two crores to Bengal and how could Bengal give up such a large amount? Government can now see very well that a time would soon come when Bengal would have to give up a very good portion of that revenue.

Sir, this year the warning has been given by a fall in the revenue amounting to as much as Rs. 35 lakhs. I do not think there is any chance of our recovering that income; on the contrary there is every apprehension of the fall increasing year by year. I would ask the Government to lay down a policy by which the consumption of all

intoxicants, *viz.*, wine, toddy, *ganja*, opium, *siddhi* and *charas* be reduced to half in the course of the next five years. In laying down that policy Government would be acting in response to the popular wishes and they should adjust that fall in the revenue gradually. If any fresh taxation be necessary I have no doubt the Council should vote for that taxation but I would ask Government to fight for a portion of the export duty on jute from the Government of India. This jute is Bengal's own product and Bengal has a right to get, if not the whole, at least a portion of that revenue and I think at the time when central and provincial revenues are readjusted this question should be most strenuously fought for Bengal.

5-15 p.m.

Sir, we have been blamed in season and out of season for attacking the policy of Government in swelling the police budget. The civil disobedience movement was started only a year ago but what do we find in the several years preceding? The police budget has gradually been swelling up. Palatial residences with costly electric fittings are required not only for high police officials but for European sergeants and ordinary constables and even the costs for these buildings have been met not only from the ordinary surplus revenue but by raising loans and the amount of the loan figure for police barracks now stands at Rs. 16 lakhs and for this amount we are paying nearly a lakh annually as interest. Are not the requirements of the whole of Bengal in the matter of water-supply and prevention of malaria, kala-azar and cholera more urgent than the housing of the police sergeants?

Is a sum of one lakh of rupees of any avail for intensive anti-malaria measures or anti-kala-azar campaign in rural areas having a population of 40 millions or is a provision of Rs 2,50,000 sufficient for water-supply grants to local bodies for improvement of rural water-supply? In this connection I would draw the attention of the House to the attitude of Government in making contribution to two mill municipalities, *viz.*, Titagarh and Bhatpara, for their sewerage. I do not know if hon'ble members are aware that the rate-payers within these two municipalities are not enfranchised and the areas consist mostly of European mills and cooly *bustees*, and the necessity of having sewers in those areas were pressed upon the Government by the European mill owners. Government looked most sympathetically towards these schemes and have been making large contributions for these works. What I would impress upon the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health Department is that the same spirit which actuated Government to make such large contributions towards luxurious schemes as a sewerage in European mill areas should be shown to other municipalities which stand in greater and most pressing need of improvements in the matter of water-supply and drainage.

In my last year's budget speech, I pressed the claims of the Calcutta University for a statutory provision for an annual grant like that of Dacca and I think no educated Bengalee would like to see the activities of the Calcutta University, the premier University in India in its post-graduate and research departments, dwindle down and the services of eminent professors dispensed with for want of funds.

I am glad to find that a more sympathetic attitude is being shown by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Education in the matter of grants to non-Government arts colleges and the grants have been provided in full in the next year's budget.

Regarding the grant of Rs. 25,000 for the introduction of compulsory physical culture and Rs. 49,000 for increased grants-in-aid to primary schools I would not level any criticism regarding the inadequacy of the amount considering that we have got a deficit budget next year, but I welcome the policy of increasing grants for those purposes.

Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Member in the Central Legislature has come forward for a committee of retrenchment consisting of five elected non-official members and two officials. It is high time that a provincial retrenchment committee should be constituted in our province and I hope Government would give the matter the consideration it so urgently deserves. Considering that revenue from excise should and must fall, revenue from stamps is not at all hopeful on account of the general trade depression and the fall in the prices of jute, rice and other agricultural products we shall not be able to carry on without real retrenchment.

Babu KHETTER MOHAN RAY: Sir, we have listened to the doleful budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Member which is as cheerless as disconcerting. Prospects before us are gloomy, perhaps more gloomy than the figures in the budget indicate. On the receipt sides, some figures were taken on the assumption that the condition in the next year would improve a little, but we do not find any signs that the economic depression would be lifted in the near future. According to the budget estimates, the Government are faced with a deficit of Rs. 94,67,000 representing the excess of the estimated expenditure over estimated receipts less the opening balance. So the Bengal Government are going to meet this deficit by borrowing. When there is such a large deficit with no prospect of the economic condition improving in the near future, prudential considerations dictate that rigid economy and retrenchment should be made not only on non-essential items of expenditure but all round retrenchment should be resorted to including the cuts in the salaries of the Government servants. Government have chosen the easiest way of meeting the excess expenditure by borrowing. Every one should cut his coat according to his cloth. Even in the present economic depression, no serious attempt has been made to

balance the budget by all round retrenchment. If a general cut at certain percentage were proposed by way of retrenchment in the salaries of the officers of the Government they would not be worse off. As we know, the Government servants got all round increment in their salaries when the prices of foodstuff and other necessaries of life became very high. Now that the prices have abnormally come down, the Government servants are not in the least affected by the economic depression and are more prosperous than any other class of people as they enjoy their salaries in full and have to pay less for necessaries and luxuries of life. In other countries outside India, Governments have decided to cut down the salaries of their officers in order to meet the deficit in their budgets. Here we find no such attempt has been made or is in contemplation. It is, therefore, no wonder that Bengal Government would be forced to borrowing to make up the huge deficit. I must say that this policy of borrowing is economically unsound and unfair to the tax-payers who will be burdened with additional taxation. It is not at all a sound policy for the Government to borrow in order to meet ordinary expenditure of administration.

The Meston award has placed Bengal in a sad predicament. A retrenchment committee was appointed by the Government which made certain recommendations. The recommendations of the committee, if given effect to, would have resulted in greater economy. I do not know whether Government have made any serious attempt to carry out the recommendations of the retrenchment committee. The general administration of Bengal in all conscience is as top-heavy as ever.

No attempt has been made to reduce the number of high posts which are considered superfluous. Four Executive Councillors and three Ministers are quite unnecessary to carry on the works of the departments assigned to them which could be done by half the numbers. Truth is that had the Government tried all round retrenchment by cutting down superfluities and by making cuts in salaries which are too high for the poor people of the country to pay, the Government would have been able to tide over the difficulties caused by economic depression without extra grant for the same from the general revenue.

Now turning to the items of expenditure under different heads, I find that estimated expenditure on police for 1931-32, exceeds the actual of the year 1929-30 which was a normal year, by more than Rs. 9 lakhs. Similarly, expenditure under "Jails and Convict Settlements" for 1929-30, was less than what was estimated for 1931-32, by about Rs. 7 lakhs. It is said that the growth of expenditure under the above two heads is due to the present political situation of the country. It must be said that the Police Department has been pampered at the expense of the other departments and absorbs about one-fifth of the total revenue. Had rigid retrenchment been carried out in this department, extra expenditure due to the exigencies of the situation could

have been met without extra grant for the same from the general revenue. On comparison of the budget estimate for the last ten years I find expenditure on police has grown up by leaps and bounds without let or hindrance.

For instance, in 1919-20, the police had about Rs. 1 crore and 45 lakhs, while in 1930-31, the revised estimate under this head is for Rs. 2 crores and 20 lakhs, *i.e.*, to say between these years there was an increase of Rs. 75 lakhs. Was there any justification for this increased expenditure? I think not. While the police budget was continuously increasing, the nation-building departments, such as education, sanitation, agriculture and industries, were allowed to languish. At least we find there is nothing like a corresponding increase in these departments. If one goes through the budget carefully he is sure to be struck with the inequitous distribution of the grants between the reserved and transferred sides of the administration.

Out of a total of Rs. 12 crores and 25 lakhs budgeted for expenditure for the next year only the Reserved departments receive about Rs. 8 crores and 65 lakhs while the Ministers will get about Rs. 3 crores and 60 lakhs to carry on the works of their nation-building departments. There is little wonder why there is so much illiteracy amongst the people; why thousands of people die every year from the preventible diseases and why economic condition of the agriculturists in the country has reached to the lowest level possible and why still water-hyacinth is damaging the crops and obstructing the water-ways of Bengal. The Hon'ble Ministers who seem to be secure in the tenure of their office have evidently accepted the distribution of funds without any demur. But the funds allotted would only enable the Ministers to carry on the routine work of their departments.

Now turning to the head "Medical," I find to my disappointment that a grant of Rs. 70,000, which was allotted in the budget estimate for the year 1930-31, for the construction of a hospital at Comilla, entirely disappears in the budget estimate of the next year. I may remind the Government and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical Department that the local bodies and the people of Tippera raised Rs. 70,000 by subscriptions amongst themselves and the Government promise a grant of equal amount for the construction of a new hospital which has been a crying want in that place for several years. The land was acquired at a cost of about Rs. 30,000. Grounds were raised and a tank was re-excavated His Excellency the Governor laid the foundation stone of the new hospital when he visited Comilla in 1929. The work would have begun in right earnest last year but for some technical defects in preparing the plans which necessitated revision and delay. In these circumstances, I would appeal to the Government to reconsider their decision and try to find some money, otherwise the project would be delayed for some time to come.

As regards the revenue under "Stamps" and "Registration," I would emphatically say that so long as the existing laws relating to the sale of occupancy-holdings and payment of landlords' fees at the time of registration and limitations of the rights of the occupancy-raiyats to mortgage their holdings remain intact as enacted by the recent amendments of the Bengal Tenancy Act, there is little hope of rise of revenue under these heads. In the current year we are faced with economic depression but in the last year there was a fall in receipts under "Stamps" and "Registration." This was due to the working of the Bengal Tenancy Act. Purchasers of occupancy-holdings have to pay landlords' fees at the time of registration together with heavy transmission costs. Under the old laws, purchasers had to pay landlords' fees after they had enjoyed the crops for a certain number of years. It is therefore no wonder that people do not come forward to purchase holdings as often as they did before and that the value of occupancy-holdings has considerably come down. I, therefore, invite the attention of the Government to take steps to amend these laws which have entailed hardships upon the poor agriculturists of the country.

The Department of Industries and Agriculture is the most important department entrusted with the task of looking after the economic welfare of the country. From the perusal of the budget we do not find any schemes or projects in contemplation for improvement of agriculture and industries of the country. No doubt the funds are quite inadequate. But whatever funds are allotted to it are absorbed in salaries of the officers. No sufficient provision is made for research and experiment in agriculture. What we need is that the country should be provided with a net-work of research and experiment centres so that the cultivators may take the fullest advantage of works without any difficulty.

In Bengal, we are faced with economic depression owing mainly to the abnormal fall in prices of jute which was the result of over-production.

Here I would like to impress upon the Government that they should set up a permanent machinery to initiate measures to improve and develop the growing and marketing and manufacture of jute and to control its production according to the needs of the world market. It would be hardly necessary for me to dilate upon the importance of jute in the economic condition of Bengal especially of the East and North Bengal. Almost all the people of Bengal directly and indirectly are fed and clothed and maintained by the proceeds of the sale of jute. Jute is a monopoly of Bengal. By far the largest proportion of the inhabitants of Bengal owe their prosperity to this important agricultural produce. In short, jute has played an important part and will play such part in the future in the national economy of our country.

The peculiarity of jute trade is that the producers, *i.e.*, the cultivators are ignorant and illiterate people. They are not acquainted with the conditions of jute trade. It is an important duty of the Government to keep the cultivators acquainted with the facts and figures of this trade. All that the Government have done for the jute trade is to publish their forecasts of jute production every year in the *Calcutta Gazette*. These forecasts do not benefit the cultivators, because they have not sufficient intelligence and education to understand them. Moreover, these are not at all available to them, published, as they are, in foreign language. These forecasts relate only to the anticipated outturn of the crops sown, they do not deal with the probable demand of the crops and stock in hand. The growers of jute grow their crops according to their whims and caprices, without having regard to the need of the next market. In 1929 the cultivators got prices for their jute which were barely sufficient to cover the costs of production. In spite of this discouraging condition of jute trade, the cultivators grew jute last year which was much more than the demand. The results were that there was abnormal fall in prices of jute, which have caused abnormal economic depression in the country. Though there is abundance of foodstuff in the country, the jute-growers and those who depend upon jute trade are passing through critical conditions in the East and North Bengal. The cultivators of jute have not sufficient money to buy necessaries of life and have ceased to pay rents to their landlords. We find economic breakdown around us due to over-production of jute. It may be said that there is world-wide depression in trade but in Bengal abnormal fall in prices of jute has greatly aggravated the situation. Though the jute is an important industry, Government have hitherto done nothing to develop and improve the industry.

Government maintain the Agricultural Department which has a large band of officers scattered throughout the country. They carry on research works—which do not benefit the cultivators. The results of their researches are embodied in learned brochures written in a language which is beyond the comprehension of the jute-growers. For want of proper instructions and information, the jute-growers proceed with their cultivation to the utter disregard of the demand of the market. Government have hitherto neglected to do its most important duty of supplying the accurate statistics and necessary information relating to the jute. Government should without delay establish a permanent machinery for controlling the cultivation of jute and supplying necessary information to the jute-growers. In the meantime the Government should supply necessary information relating to the present jute market and its prospects in the next year. The propaganda may be done through the agency of the district agricultural officers and the circle officers. They should be asked to visit every bazar on the market

days when all the agriculturists meet to sell their goods and buy necessaries of life and by speeches and leaflet disseminate necessary information and facts amongst the cultivators. Distribution of a few leaflets would not do any good to them. No doubt the Government had caused circulation of leaflets for restriction of jute cultivation but it is doubtful.

[Here the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.]

5-30 p.m.

Dr. NARESH CHANDRA SEN GUPTA: Sir, a man who is down on his luck like the Finance Member this year deserves sympathy and a certain measure of indulgence and I do not grudge him a full measure of sympathy. It would be insincere of me, however, to say that I like the look of his offspring he has held forth for our admiration. It is ugly and misshapen, as it must needs be considering that it is cramped by a dwarfing orthodoxy and is without an ounce of expensive imagination in its composition.

It is not a business-like budget—not a budget which takes its stand on the bedrock of facts instead of grasping at floating air-bubbles. With the optimism of immortal Micawber the Hon'ble Finance Member lives in the hope of something turning up, and in the meantime, Micawber-like again, he thinks of touching his friend, the Government of India, for a trifle of 94 lakhs of rupees.

The Hon'ble Member builds on the expectation that the revenue will expand beyond the limits of this year's actuals. Of course there is nothing in the facts around us to justify the hope. But with every prospect of diminishing returns the Government prefers to shut their eyes to facts and indulge in dreams, assisted probably by the cheaper opium supplied by the Government of India, of improved finances.

With a lean purse and a bad year ahead the first thought of a prudent man would be to cut his expenses ruthlessly so that he may face the worst outlook with courage and confidence. It is the reckless spendthrift who prefers to build on hopes, which he knows at heart there is nothing to support, only to make believe that he can afford the luxuries he has been used to. The Government of Bengal prefers to be the spendthrift because it shrinks from the sacrifice that prudence demands.

Sir, I do not think our finances are going to improve. Mr. Marr realises that our present misfortune is due mainly to world depression, but he hopes that the world conditions will improve. The rising figures of the unemployed in every country in the world except Russia give the lie to that hope. For unemployment means less buying power; less buying power means restricted production and more unemployment. That is the vicious circle in which the purblind economic system which

still holds the world in its grip has plunged humanity. The world can only come out of it by a great revolution, unless some windfall in the shape of a war or some such thing helps the broken system back on its legs as wars have done in the past. Sound finance would, therefore, dictate one or both of two courses—rigid economy and an energetic policy for enriching the people.

The top-heavy administration in India has always fought shy of the axe; for it knows that any rational scheme of retrenchment would cut the biggest slices from the top. The Government of Bengal is, therefore, content with what Mr. Marr himself calls a cheese-paring policy and trusts to luck to carry it through. Such happy-go-lucky people thrive sometimes, but oftener they come to grief. For our own sake we trust Mr. Marr will not come to grief.

With regard to the other way, an energetic constructive policy for enriching the people, the Government has never yet shown itself capable of the boldness and the imagination which such a course would require. Yet, I make bold to say that without such a policy and such a programme the Government of Bengal will not find its way out of the quagmire in which it finds itself sunk. Want of imagination has been the bane of Indian finance. From the time of the East India Company onwards the Government has been content to earn what they may by way of revenue and have never bothered to realise that the revenue after all depends on the wealth of the people. If they had realised that, we should have heard less of the eternal wail about the tightness of our finances. The Government would have set itself with determination to act on a programme for increasing the wealth of the people, to feed and nurse the hen that lays golden eggs instead of being eternally preoccupied with counting and assorting the eggs.

Sir, this year's budget, like its predecessors, is devoid of all pretence to be a people's budget, a budget that seeks to increase the well-being of the people. It does not even realise in anything like an adequate measure the utter economic breakdown with which the people are faced. It has no programme for saving them from the catastrophe.

Yet every one can see that the Government can do a great deal to bring wealth to the people. If only the Government had followed a rational policy with regard to jute, the country would not have been in the throes of distress. Instead, as Khan Bahadur Azizul Haque pointed out last year, the Government has deliberately gone on promoting over-production of jute. Lest I should be accused of attributing a policy to Government which is not theirs, I shall quote from the report of the Department of Agriculture which shows their viewpoint very clearly. Everybody now is bewailing the over-production of jute as bad policy. Not so the Agriculture Department; for they say in their report at page 13: "In spite of lower prices the cultivator in 1929 again produced a crop of over 100 lakhs of bales." Are they alarmed at it? Do they

want to stop this foolhardiness? No. "There is now little doubt," they continue, "that the wide distribution of departmentally improved races of jute with increased crops thus entailed, has enabled the cultivator to produce his fibre and sell it at a lower price than before while still making a satisfactory profit. This has placed the Bengal monopoly in jute beyond the reach of any competition to be anticipated, while still allowing the raiyat a substantial return for his labour." Substantial return for his labour indeed when the raiyat was selling at less than cost! Well, Sir, the department actually gloats over the over-production and claims its legitimate share of credit for it! Thus have the Government played ducks and drakes with the wealth of the people—and they are annoyed that the people do not give them all the revenue they want!

Small things would go a long way to improve the condition of the people. Take, for instance, our wealth in cattle. The poor cattle of Bengal do not make a substantial part of the wealth of our people. But if you improve their breed and build up a big industry of dairy farming, Bengal may become rich as Denmark has been. The extremely satisfactory result of the experiments carried out for the last two years in the Malda and the Nadia districts by the Agriculture Department clearly indicated a large expansion of work on those lines all over Bengal. Within those two years great results have been achieved in the two districts in improving the breed of cattle, cultivation of fodder crop and in silage operations. Working on those lines Bengal could in five years breed its own cattle of good breed instead of paying about a crore of rupees every year to Bihar dealers of upper India breeds. In ten years our cattle would be a substantial addition to our wealth. But the Department of Agriculture, called upon by Mr. Marr to retrench, have found nothing handier to sacrifice than this most promising line of work by abolishing the posts of the officers who were doing the work. I do not know whether they propose to give up paying for premium bulls also!

A far more imaginative, but after all an essentially humble, scheme is the one which Sir Daniel Hamilton has laboriously worked out, which, if pursued with determination, would transform the economic face of the country in more ways than one. We are told that Sir Daniel has induced Sir George Schuster to offer to pay for the first instalment of the scheme, but I gather from his letter to the *Statesman* that the Government of Bengal has not yet been able to see its way to accept the offer.

Sir, to a Government which has proved itself incapable of doing these small things I hesitate to speak of far grander things—of audacious programmes for lifting up the people from their depression and making them prosperous. Such schemes have worked wonders elsewhere. Denmark has shown what can be done by a determined State policy for co-operative production. A State economic policy transformed Japan in less than half a century. And, lastly, that marvel of the modern age,

the Five-year Plan of Soviet Russia, not only seeks to make a poor and backward country the most prosperous and most resourceful in the world, but has already in the course of three years out of five achieved wonders which have set the world staring.

I trust that hon'ble members will not be frightened at the name of Soviet Russia. I am not talking of communism, nor even of socialism; I am talking of their wonderful work of organisation just to illustrate the wonders that may be achieved by working with a purpose. And to allay their fears I shall quote two passages from the writings of two American economists who are not socialists to show the importance of the Five-year Plan.

5-45 p.m.

"It is an experiment so immense, so novel and so courageous that no student of economics can afford to neglect it. Whether it transcends the limits of human administrative capacity and fails, or whether it meets this challenge and succeeds, it has much to teach us." Another American economist, by no means a socialist, has said: "This is a stupendous conception which presents a real challenge to capitalism. If socialists can demonstrate the feasibility of a centrally planned and co-ordinated industrial system, we may well question whether capitalism must not find a way to incorporate this feature into economy, if it is not to give way to socialism."

I shall beg leave of this House, Sir, to tell them not all the wonders that Russia has achieved in three years but only what it has achieved in the sphere of agriculture. Here again I shall leave out of account the stupendous programme of State farms but shall confine myself to collective farms which would be more to our purpose.

I shall quote a passage from a recent English publication which describes the condition of agriculture in Russia in pre-Soviet days: "At the time of the fall of the Tzardom in March, 1917, there were some 25 million peasant farms in the area now included in the Soviet Union, with a small number of large agricultural estates. The peasants were not only hostile to any form of organisation; they were for the most part illiterate and incredibly ignorant of modern methods of agriculture." I omit the reference to estates of large land-owners which have since been converted into State farms. "Even the richest among the peasants, the Kulaks, whose farms were relatively large and who employed a number of hired workers, had not knowledge of the use of agricultural machinery. There were also the 'middle peasants' with enough land to win from it a precarious living; and finally there were the 'poor peasants' whose plots of land were so small that they could not support a family without the aid of wages earned on the landlord's estates or the Kulak farms."

The House will no doubt feel that this was almost a description of agriculture in Bengal as it now is. The Soviet Government set to work on this unpromising material by introducing methods of collective cultivation—not by expropriating the peasants, not by forcing collectivation on them, but by purely voluntary agreement. Time will not permit me to go into the methods employed by them, but I shall give the House the results of this policy. The result has been that the production on these farms which was 840 thousand tons in 1927-28, has increased to 25 million and six hundred thousand tons in 1930 after three years' work, or in other words the production has been increased to over thirty-fold of the original production

To achieve this end, the Government spent 76 million roubles in 1927-28, 170 million roubles in 1928-29 and 473 million roubles in 1929-30. And the Russian Government has managed to find not only this but millions and millions of roubles more for the economic advancement of the country though it was only the other day in 1925 that it was faced with a ruinous famine, a depreciated currency and a threatened financial breakdown; and the Government has shown that the money was well spent.

I am not pleading now for socialism, nor do I call upon the Government to emulate the Soviet in all its grander projects, but it ought certainly to be possible for the Government of Bengal to have its own five years' plan for organising and developing the agricultural and industrial wealth of the country by collectivation on the lines so successfully followed in Russia and by organising trade and credit on co-operative lines as in Russia. That would not commit them to any drastic departure from economic orthodoxy and interfere with no proper rights. It would only mean giving to the cultivators of land the benefits of a comprehensive organisation which alone will greatly multiply the wealth of the people.

Time is ripe—it has been ripe for a long while now—for the Government to take up the work of economic elevation of the people in right earnest—in the way that Soviet Russia has set about it. Let them go ahead with a great scheme, organising agriculture and industries and organising the credit of the country, setting the vast mass of idle and unproductive labour in the country to the task of economic regeneration by centrally planned and co-ordinated agricultural and industrial system in which each man and woman would be engaged in work for the uplift of all. That is the only way that can save Bengal, the only way that can dry up the yearly flow of tears of her Finance Member and lachrymose complaints of the financial inequity imposed on us by the Financial Scheme under the Reforms.

There is no other way for securing a sound financial condition in Bengal.

Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY spoke in Bengali, the English translation of which is as follows:—

"Sir, it is true that many valuable and learned speeches have been made on the budget. Yet, in my opinion, there are things for discussion which will benefit us enormously.

Let us take first of all the case of stamps. The value of the stamps is being increased gradually and the result is that the poor inhabitants are undergoing untold difficulties. They cannot afford to buy stamps with such an exorbitant price to make registered documents. So, we see, whereas the income of Government from this source was Rs. 3,91,97,000 three years before, last year's income has been Rs. 3,16,00,000. That is a reduction of Rs. 76 lakhs. This is an awful reduction no doubt. I think so long as the inability of the public to buy stamps at the present exorbitant price will not be removed by reducing the price, the income from this source instead of increasing will decrease gradually. This means a great loss to the Government and unbounded difficulties for the public in the way of the smooth transaction of their business. I think our Government should benefit the poor half-starved inhabitants by decreasing the price shortly and be benefited itself—poor Bengalis generally like cheap things. High prices hold a dread before their eyes. So, Sir, you may easily imagine that reduction of price will mean a sharp sale which will undoubtedly increase the income.

Now let us turn to the income of the Registration Department.

The case of this department is similar to that mentioned above. The income of this department was Rs. 39,94,000 in 1928-29. It has been Rs. 31,09,000 in 1929-30. This year the income has been reduced to Rs. 5,00,000. Why so dreadful reduction? Does it not mean a grievous loss? Is it due to anything other than the increment of the registration fee? Is it not proper for the Government to go back again to its normal fee so that the disabilities in the way of the public in the transaction of their affairs be removed and the Government benefited financially. It cannot be gainsaid that the public do seldom approach the registration office from the time the registration fee was enhanced. They perform only some unavoidable transactions with double fees as required by the newly introduced scheme. It is a glaring fact that there has been increment neither in the staff of this department nor of their pay. Then, has not a great injustice been done to the poor public by the increment of the registration fee? I hope Government will soon resort to the wise policy of reducing the registration fee.

Let me speak a few words about the Forest Department. The Forest Department is a source of huge income though its expenditure is not less in proportion. In spite of this it has come to our knowledge that of the 33 higher grade services, three were abolished last year and one was reduced this year. But on the other hand the money estimate in the

budget of this department for this year has been far more than that of the last year. Why so? What has created this situation passes our imagination. Then you will wonder to hear about the share of the poor Muslims in this branch of Government. Of the 18 Imperial services, only one has been allotted to Muslims and the same is the lot of the Muslims in the 12 provincial posts. Moreover, irony of fate is that that solitary fellow in the provincial post will not be allowed to enjoy the pay of provincial post and he will get only the pay of a ranger. If this comes to be true, should it not be said that the Government have done a great injustice? There are only two Muslim rangers among 54 rangers in all Bengal. The share of Muslims is the same in the posts of foresters and guards. But what is the truth? Is not the income of Rs. 30,52,000 made annually by the department out of Muslim labourers who work in the forests disregarding their health and live hand-to-mouth? So it is expected that the Government will direct its attention to take a sufficient number of Muslims in this department and reduce the rate of passes. It is heard that the Government is no longer issuing passes for the household utensils which were in vogue before. The income of this department was in the year 1928-29 a sum of Rs. 30,52,000. It turned to an amount of Rs. 24,82,000 last year. This year a budget of Rs. 25,27,000 has been made. The decrease in the income is due only to the increment of fees of passes. The sooner the Government reduce the fees of passes to their former scale the better for both its own sake and for the poor inhabitants in Bengal.

We know that the amount in the budget of the Public Health Department is increasing every year. But the union boards have, owing to the want of money, been unable to do useful works for the country which look to them eagerly for the redress of their diverse grievances. If sufficient money comes from the Government for the good of the public, they will not hesitate to pay with the union rates increased taxes as required by article 37B. There is a health assistant in every thana. Very few malaria and cholera patients get injected by them by waiting in their lodgings. Can any considerable benefit accrue to the public in this way? The only way to remove the cause of malaria and cholera is to clear the villages off the jungles, water-hyacinth, rubbish and dregs which are the congenial homes of all disease germs. So, in my opinion, the advisable and urgent thing for Government, if it wants the good of the country and the poor inhabitants of village, is to grant considerable sums to the union boards which are alone able to remove all the grievances of the country. Will Government see that the union boards are granted considerable sums every year?

To proceed further, Government has prepared a budget of a colossal sum for the prisons this year.

But it is a pity to say that the prisoners are not treated well by their so-called *munibs* nor they get full meals to satisfy their empty stomachs.

They are not given opportunity to refresh their labour-worn bodies. It is expected that Government will see that the prisoners receive due treatment, at the hands of jail officers and full meals and sufficient leisure to renew their fatigued energies. Attention should be paid to their health and happiness. Imprisonment means correction of crime.

A few words about our exalted High Court and I finish my speech. The 16 Justices of the High Court are so many denials to us. The rich and the poor of Bengal alike have a great regard for them and their judgments. That the budget of the High Court has embraced a sum which is larger than that of the year 1929-30 by Rs. 30,000 is not a matter to be questioned at all. But most of the money they appropriate comes from the poor peasants who earn their insufficient livelihood by the sweat of their brow. Yet they are being neglected by the authorities more and more. It will be proved by the fact that whereas their cases had been receiving joint consideration of two judges till before the last *Puja* vacation, since then each of the cases has been receiving the consideration of only one judge. Should only one judge consider a case, of whatever value it may be, what is then wrong with the judgment of the district judge? Had some of the judges of the High Court not been district judges a few years—say three or four years—before? We have so long been satisfied with the joint judgment of two judges thinking that discussion of a case by two or more enables the judges to make a right judgment. It is a vivid reality that the number of appeals to the High Court has considerably diminished. But there has been no decrease in the number of judges and their big salaries Yet a case of below Rs. 500 is considered by only one judge in place of two judges. It is beyond our comprehension to understand what has made the judges to go against the time-honoured custom that two judges should sit to hammer out the judgment on the discussion. The ends of justice should reach the rich and the poor alike. Hence there should be no difference in the consideration of big and small cases, that is, in the cases of above and below Rs. 500. If the authorities think that only one judge is sufficient to consider a judicial case of below Rs. 500, then it is better for us that judgment of the district judges on such cases should be declared final and reduction be made in the staff of the High Court judges. Otherwise they should respect our opinions and satisfy us by giving us the benefit of the judgment of two judges in all cases of below Rs. 500 value as had been given us before.

Formerly a case of Rs. 50 value only would receive the judgment of a judge as at present without requiring the appellant to pay printing charge. Nowadays cases of upwards of Rs. 50 up to Rs. 500 are judged by only one judge. Why should then the appellant require to defray printing charge for the matter of his case? Why would there be printing in such a case at all?

Formerly the appellant required to pay a printing charge of Rs. 15. Now everything is cheaper including the printing charge and paper; yet we do not understand why the authorities instead of reducing the printing charge have introduced an extra charge of Rs. 7-8 from the respondent.

Have our heads gone wrong or the authorities are growing wiser and if I am allowed to say,—justice? Heretofore appeals could be made against the decision of a single judge in any case without the case being referred to him (I mean that only judge). Now no such appeals are accepted without the consent of the judge concerned in the previous decisions. They are not after all angels. So in most cases they withhold their consent to such appeals being made. They, like all other men, do not like that their decisions should in any case be criticised. Will the authorities of the High Court see that all these grave grievances of the public are soon redressed?

There are 245 munsifs in Bengal. But you will despair to see the number of Muslims and Brahmins. They are hopelessly and lamentably few, less than 10 per cent. During the last ten years no Brahmins of Chittagong have been taken in these services and only three posts have been allotted to the Muslims of the same district. Irrigation Department has hitherto nominally existed for us—the Chittagonians. For we have received up to this time no help from it. The munsif courts of Chittagong are situated at great distances from each other. Establishment of a few new courts are the desideratum of the poor Chittagonians. Is it not the proper thing for the Government to see that justice is being done to all districts alike and all the parts of Bengal are drawing equal benefit from the Government resources and funds?"

6 p.m.

Maulvi ABDUL HAMID SHAH spoke in Bengali, the English translation of which is as follows:—

"The review of the estimates from 1927-28 to 1931-32 made by the Finance Member on the 23rd February last while submitting his budget affords ample material for presenting before Government on behalf of the public a true picture of the real condition of the country, for which we heartily thank him.

Leaving aside the present acute political problem of Bengal, I shall merely indicate how close is the connection of Government with the starving and naked and sick and stricken peasantry of Bengal, and how, owing to indifference to their woes and hopes, the rulers of Bengal are faced with anxiety about their immediate future.

The budget for 1931-32 shows expenditure in excess of income, which taken all round will imply borrowing of Rs. 94,67,000 next year for the Bengal Government.

It is unlikely that the estimated incomings from land revenue, stamps, registration and excise for 1931-32 will stand at the figures suggested.

The Finance Member is hopeful of a revival of trade, but I do not venture to share that hope. The Hon'ble Member is looking only at the world demand for crops from Bengal, *i.e.*, at money brought in from outside by commerce. But no country can live, in the absence of capital, on hopes of money to be given by others. The fact that at present distress is confined not to cultivators, but extends to all classes of society, indicates that the population is utterly resourceless. Anyhow, it is to be hoped that the Finance Member's speech will convince all that all classes of the Bengali population are dependent on the peasantry for their existence. About jute the situation is that no rise in prices is to be expected even if the average cultivation is restricted to one-fourth this year. Prices of agricultural produce have now fallen and peasants are not likely to be able to pay rents to zamindars at the excessive rates to which they have been enhanced. And if they fail, the zamindars, too, are unlikely to pay up. Hence the Finance Member's estimate of yield from land revenue next year is not likely to be realised. As regards judicial stamps, civil litigation is likely to be reduced owing to economic distress. Usurers who lent money at impossible rates to the thoughtless peasantry are now at their wit's end as to how they are to get back their money. The amount of money lent now is greater than the value of the cultivator's holding which was the security for the loan. Hence they are not going to get decrees from the Courts which they cannot execute with any profit to themselves—the more so, as under the new Amended Tenancy Act, they will have to make a deposit of 20 per cent. on the value of the holding bought at auction.

As regards non-judicial stamps, the making of advances has practically ceased, owing to the improvidence of the debtors, and the transfers of holdings have dwindled. Hence it is probable that the Finance Member's anticipations as to the yield from it will not materialise. And for the same reasons the yield from registration fees also is uncertain.

I shall conclude with a few remarks about the yield from excise. If the Finance Member anticipates that as a result of the settlement with Congress the use of intoxicants next year will increase on last year's figures, it must be said that no pious man can expect the world of righteousness to endure much longer. As a Moslem, I must say that so long as it is a ruling power's duty to improve the morals of its subjects, it cannot be civil disobedience to try and dissuade people from using intoxicants.

If Government retrench outlay on police and prisons, and realise from the landlords a share of the increased rentals they charge on the raiyats, the money thus realised will enable Government to forego the sinful income from the Excise Department. If the same money is also freely spent on primary and secondary education, trust and good feeling will be generated, making police and prisons unnecessary. And if a section of the population in the country regard it as honourable to court imprisonment, it is useless to increase police and prisons in that country."

[At 6-15 p.m. the Council was adjourned for prayer.]

Adjournment.

The Council reassembled at 6-30 p.m., but there being no quorum, the Council was adjourned till 3 p.m., on Tuesday, the 3rd of March, 1931, at the Council House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Council House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 3rd March, 1931, at 3 p.m.

Present:

Mr. President (the Hon'ble Raja Sir MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, KT., of Santosh) in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the three Hon'ble Ministers and 100 nominated and elected members.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Distress in Bogra.

***123. Dr. JOGENDRA CHANDRA CHAUDHURI:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department been drawn to the prevalence of acute distress in the district of Bogra, due to flood in some area and to depression in jute prices?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of taking any steps to help the starving people of the district?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government propose to take in the matter?

MEMBER in charge of REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) The existence of distress in an area of about 50 square miles in Bogra district, due partly to low prices of jute and partly to floods which damaged the *aman* paddy crop, was reported to Government.

(*b*) and (*c*) The sum of Rs. 80,000 has been allotted to Bogra during the current financial year for distribution as agricultural loans. No further amount is required by the Collector during the current year but a further amount will be allotted, if required, for this or other areas, in the next financial year. Further, Government will, if necessary, advance money to the district board for test relief works.

Rai Bahadur KESHAB CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of any case of death due to starvation in the district of Bogra?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: No.

Rai Bahadur KESHAB CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether or not test relief works mentioned in answer (*b*) and (*c*) will be adequate?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: That is the beginning.

Rai Bahadur KESHAB CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether this distress is due to failure of crops or other reasons?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I have already answered.

Government School of Art.

***124. Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether there have been three strikes within less than three years among the students of the Government School of Art since the appointment of Mr. Mukul Chandra De as Principal of the said school?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how the first and second strikes originated; and

(*ii*) how they were subsequently settled?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the names of six students were struck off from the rolls of the school on the 19th of September last?

(*d*) If so, for what offence?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the students were ever given any opportunity of explaining their conduct before such orders of expulsion were passed against them?

(*f*) Is it a fact that since the above-mentioned date, thirty other students have been expelled from the school and that all the inmates of the hostel attached to the said school have been asked to vacate their seats?

(*g*) Is it a fact that those students were expelled from the school in the middle of a month?

(*h*) If so, are the Government aware of the difficulty of the expelled students to procure seats elsewhere?

MINISTER in charge of EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) Both strikes originated out of the insubordination of students. The immediate cause of the first strike was that students were required to provide themselves with drawing boards at their own expense (the cost of such boards being less than one rupee). The immediate cause of the second strike was an allegation that some students were dissatisfied with certain teaching appointments and rules concerning scholarships and attendance made by the Principal.

(*ii*) In the first strike the Principal allowed the students until the end of July, 1928, to provide themselves with drawing boards and pins and permitted them to return without punishment.

In the second strike the names of students were struck off who, after being so ordered by the governing body, did not attend their classes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) (*1*) Insulting teachers, (*2*) inciting students to strike, (*3*) refusing to accept decisions of the governing body with regard to work in the school.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Ten more students have been expelled since the date under reference. The inmates of the hostel were asked to vacate their seats because of their refusal to attend the school.

(*g*) They were expelled on different dates, chiefly at the beginning of last December.

(*h*) Yes.

Maulvi SYED MAJID BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the rules concerning scholarships and attendance to which they objected?

The Hon'ble Mr. KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN: I must ask for notice.

Short Notice Question.

*125. **Mr. C. C. COOPER:** (*a*) Are the Government aware that at a meeting of the Corporation, held on the 25th February, the provision of a cable to join the two stations (Mullick Ghat and Watgunge Pumping Stations) together was sanctioned at an expenditure of Rs. 88,000?

(*b*) Are the Government aware of the statements in the Corporation that this cable will at present be of no use whatever to any one?

(*c*) Are the Government aware that this cable forms a work or part of a series of works which require the sanction of Government under section 14 of the Calcutta Municipal Act?

(*d*) If so, what action are the Government prepared to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): Government has received no official information on the subject but will make inquiries into the matter with reference to the section of the Calcutta Municipal Act referred to.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Transmission of landlords' transfer fees.

80. **Mr. SAILESWAR SINGH ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Revenue Department aware that great inconvenience has been caused to the landholders on account of the unnecessary delay, often exceeding one year, in transmission of the landlords' transfer fees deposited under the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, even in cases where there is no co-sharer to share in the fees?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government have issued any instructions to charge court-fees on applications of the landholders for transmission of such deposited fees, when made even after 12 months from the date of the receipt of the notice of such deposit?

(*c*) What are the causes for this delay in transmission of the transfer fees?

(*d*) Have the Government given any direction that the landholders should search the deposit registers on payment of court-fees and apply for transmission of such transfer fees?

(*c*) Do the Government intend to issue instructions to the Collectors to expedite transmission of transfer fees in future? If so, when?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) No. Government have no official information that there is unnecessary delay in transmission, though there is often delay on the part of landlords in making application for transmission or payment when required to do so by the rules. Certain specific cases have very recently been brought to the notice of Government. These are under inquiry.

(*b*) The fees chargeable under the Court-fees Act have been remitted on applications by sole landlords or their agents, joint applications by co-sharer landlords and applications of common managers and common agents.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) No such special direction has been given. Rules 273 and 337 of the Records Manual apply.

(*e*) Not unless it is found that there is avoidable delay in transmission of transfer fees.

Rai Bahadur KESHAB CHANDRA BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of any case of delay in the transmission of landlords' transfer fees that have been reported from the districts of Dacca and Pabna?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Not with regard to these two districts.

Mr. SHANTI SHEKHARESWAR RAY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any additional staff has been engaged for this work?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: The staff necessary has been engaged.

Prohibition of performance of Bengali drama "Karagar."

81. Dr. NARESH CHANDRA SEN GUPTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department be pleased to state whether the Government have by an order prohibited the performance in any public place of the play of a Bengali drama entitled "Karagar" which was being staged at the Monomohan Theatre for some time past?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state for what reason and on whose advice the order was made?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the drama in question—

(*i*) is a mythological drama; and

(*ii*) does not relate to present-day politics?

(*d*) Did the Government take the advice of any legal or literary expert before passing the order?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report or reports received from such expert or experts?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. Prentice): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) For the reasons stated in the order, *i.e.*, that it was likely to excite feelings of disaffection towards Government, and on the advice of Government's legal advisers.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Ostensibly no, but actually its bearing on present-day politics was beyond doubt.

(*d*) *Vide* (*b*) above.

(*e*) No.

Budget discussion.

General discussion of the Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1931-32 was then resumed.

Rai Bahadur Dr. HARIDHAN DUTT: Sir, it is impossible to avoid a feeling of sadness and depression on a perusal of the budget and the speech by the Hon'ble Finance Member and also the explanatory memorandum with which we have been furnished. It is indeed an irony of fate that a record jute crop and a large rice crop, which should, in ordinary circumstances, have resulted in peace and plenty all round, should synchronise with a period of extraordinary depression in trade and commerce all the world over, and that cultivators should not be in a position to enjoy the full effect of the bounties of a merciful nature on account of the low prices prevailing for the produce of their labour. The Hon'ble Finance Member has, in the course of his remarks, tried to bring home pointedly to us the disastrous effect on the finances of Government and on the economic life of the province generally of the civil disobedience movement. I find that, apart from a portion of the

fall in revenue having occurred during the current year due to this movement, he puts down that an extra expenditure amounting to Rs. 28½ lakhs has had to be incurred under various heads directly as the consequence of this movement. Similar situations have arisen in almost every other major province of India. While these facts and figures should undoubtedly make us pause, and reflect as to whether the time has not arrived to cry halt to this movement, I hope that the results achieved have been an eye-opener to the Finance Member and to his other colleagues in the Government of this province as also to the authorities in other places, and I venture to hope that they have brought home to them how difficult it may become to carry on an alien administration in the face of a genuine national upheaval, and of a moral and spiritual revolt of the most articulate sections of the Indian population against a foreign domination.

Coming now to figures, I find that broadly speaking although we should have had an opening balance of Rs. 107½ lakhs, the Finance Member expects to start next year with a balance of about Rs. 45 lakhs in round figures; that the year's revenue including the opening balance is estimated at Rs. 12,56,00,000 as against an expenditure of Rs. 12,25,00,000, leaving a closing balance of only Rs. 30,91,000, which is less than a third of what we are told is a safe working margin. Omitting the opening and the closing balances and special items, the broad fact is that while next year's revenue is estimated at Rs. 10,57,00,000, the expenditure is estimated at Rs. 11½ crores. The position is hardly one which we can contemplate with equanimity, although, situated as we are, it is difficult for us to make any useful suggestion for tiding over the difficulty. The Hon'ble Member has informed us that as a result of careful scrutiny and strict instructions issued, various departments have surrendered budget provisions for nearly Rs. 40¾ lakhs and that more surrenders are coming in. I would hesitate to think that this can be the utmost limit of economy which can be effected, and I have a misgiving that many of these surrenders may really mean only temporary postponement of expenditure. If my surmise is correct, it will only add to our future difficulties. What I would like to suggest for consideration is whether, in view of the present condition of the provincial finances, it is not possible to effect drastic economies in regard to recurring expenditure, particularly on salaries and establishment. The possibilities of effecting economies in this direction may not have escaped the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Member. It is now many years since a Government committee went into the question of retrenchment in this province. It would be interesting to note what was the total retrenchment proposed by the committee and what was the actual economy effected, and what additions have had to be made since which probably have eaten up the amount saved. It is worth considering whether in view of the present

financial stringency the time has not arrived for a similar inquiry and I must regret that I cannot bring myself to believe that substantial economies are not possible in the cost of the superior establishment, both as regards number and actual emoluments. I, therefore, join the previous speakers who have suggested the formation of a Retrenchment Committee.

Proceeding from these general remarks, I would like to dwell on a few items of revenue and expenditure. Under the head of "Excise," we are told that there will be a fall in revenue of Rs. 47 lakhs during the current year. This is coupled with a hope that there may be a revival of trade and improvement of the economic condition of the people next year and that the excise revenue may consequently improve. As one, who has been associated with the temperance movement for many years, I regret I cannot join in this expression of regret at the fall in excise revenue, nor in the hope that has been expressed of an improvement in the near future. I do earnestly hope that the fall that has occurred may be a permanent feature and that although trade may revive and the economic condition of the people may improve next year, the revenue from the sale of liquors will not show any improvement.

It is somewhat of a surprise to find that the revenue from the entertainment and betting taxes will be about Rs. 2½ lakhs less than the budget estimates. The decrease seems to have occurred mainly in the betting tax which I for one do not regard as a misfortune.

As a representative of Calcutta, I am glad to note that the Hon'ble Finance Member has, in spite of the financial stringency, been able to make a provision of Rs. 2,65,000 as the Government's contribution next year towards the reconstruction of five bridges over the Circular Canal.

Under the head "Police," reference is made to a fall in receipts under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act and the Calcutta Hackney Carriage Act. In this connection I feel constrained to point out that when the Calcutta hackney carriage service was under the control of the Corporation, the Corporation used to obtain a substantial excess of revenue over expenditure and after a proportionate distribution among the municipalities in the group, the Calcutta Corporation itself got a few thousands every year as its share of the surplus. I understand that ever since the transfer of the department to the Police, there has not been any surplus at all and that in spite of representations from the Corporation it has not been possible to manage the service as cheaply as the Corporation had been doing.

Speaking of the "Police," I would only point out that while the cost of the Presidency Police only three years ago, *i.e.*, in 1927-28, was Rs. 33 lakhs, the estimate for 1931-32 amounts to Rs. 43¼ lakhs.

As regards "Education," I am glad that the Hon'ble Member has been able to make full provision for the grants-in-aid for non-Government arts colleges which were withheld this year.

I find that under "Medical," although the budget provision for hospitals and dispensaries was Rs. 26 lakhs during the current year, the revised estimate amounts to Rs. 23 lakhs only, while the budget estimate for the next year amounts to Rs. 24½ lakhs, and that the provision for grants for medical purposes has been reduced from Rs. 3 lakhs to Rs. 2½ lakhs. It is suggested in the explanation that the decrease is due partly to the surrender of about Rs. 3½ lakhs as a measure of retrenchment and partly to the postponement of expenditure not absolutely essential and also to some savings under "Pay of officers." I hope that there has been no postponement of any scheme for the extension of facilities for medical relief. I am glad that the Hon'ble Finance Member has been able to make a provision of Rs. 25,000 for grant to the Calcutta Medical Institute and of a lakh of rupees for the Jatiya Ayurbijnan Parishad. There are a number of other institutions in Calcutta the grants to which are being continued and I must express my acknowledgments to the Hon'ble Member for the same.

In regard to "Public Health," I am glad to note an increase in the budget provision from Rs. 41¾ lakhs to Rs. 42¾ lakhs and that it has been found possible to again provide a lakh of rupees for anti-kala-azar campaign, and another lakh for intensive anti-malarial measures in the rural areas.

These are some of the broad features which a cursory perusal of the explanatory memorandum has suggested to me. It is only natural that almost everyone of us should wish that it had been possible to provide more for this and that purpose or that the expenditure under certain other heads has been less than what has been estimated, but it will be a somewhat ungracious task to add to the worries of the Finance Member in a period of great financial stringency to press for additional grants for this and that purpose. I hope, however, that he will seriously consider the suggestion I made at the beginning of my remarks for a substantial curtailment of expenditure on superior establishment of Government and I have no doubt that the Council will accord Government their full support in any measure Government may seem fit to adopt in this direction.

Mr. KHWAJA SALAUDDIN: It is indeed unfortunate that in my maiden speech I should think it necessary to criticise the statement of the Hon'ble Member in charge of Finance. While agreeing that with the present trade depression and the political situation of the country we cannot expect the Hon'ble Member to perform his annual *tamasha* to the satisfaction of all—the deficit of Rs. 99 lakhs is a matter

for serious contemplation. Let us take the matter of expenditure list. We find a tremendous increase in the grants for police, administration of justice, jail and convict settlements. The excuse put up by the Hon'ble Member is that owing to the present civil disobedience movement it is necessary to increase these grants. The civil disobedience movement is to a large extent non-violent, the object of which is to change the present system of Government. Therefore you cannot say that by civil disobedience the country has been plunged into a state of civil war. I would like to make this clear that I am not a supporter of the policy of civil disobedience as advocated by the Congress but my object is to point out that the country is not in such a state as to let the masses starve on account of the extra expenditure on the above grants. If the political propaganda like civil disobedience is a crime within the British Empire then the members of the British Socialist Party, including the present Prime Minister, are also offenders. I had the privilege to be in England during the general strike of 1926 and I can say that the condition of that country for seven days was worse than in any period of the civil disobedience movement here. At that time the British Chancellor of Exchequer would have been quite justified if he had asked the Parliament to sanction extra money to preserve law and order. But even Mr. Churchill did not dare ask the British tax-payers for extra money. Here, in this unfortunate country of ours, we find that the expenditure for this thing has increased while the grants sanctioned for the improvement of the country, such as education, public health and agriculture, have been reduced. At the last session, the House passed the Primary Education Bill. I would like to ask the Finance Member and the Minister of Education whether they are going to give the Bill immediate effect or will it be a dead letter. Nothing is so dear to the hearts of the people of Bengal as the subject of education.

Financial difficulty as it exists to-day is no excuse for not making any provision for giving effect to the Primary Education Act. I am inclined to think that the Hon'ble Finance Member has not cared to appreciate the importance of this measure. I would recall to him the circumstances under which this Bill was passed by this House. This measure aroused the enthusiasm of the Mussalmans of Bengal which no other measure has been able to do in recent years. The Hon'ble Minister for Education will bear me out that when he went out to the country, not only the Mussalmans but all other backward classes told him unequivocally that they look upon the Primary Education Bill as the only means of their salvation. Wherever the Hon'ble Minister went people emphatically told him that not only they supported the provisions of the Bill but that they wanted that the provisions of the Bill should be given effect to immediately. Having regard to this strong feeling and emphatic support to the provisions of the Bill in the

country, representatives of the Mussalman and the depressed classes supported the Bill and in spite of the opposition of a very influential section of this House, the Bill was passed into law. Financial difficulties have not come as a surprise. It will be doing an injustice to the Hon'ble Finance Member to assume that with his vast experience he could not foresee the state of finance of to-day only six months ago. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance was certainly aware or ought to be aware of the state of the finances. If then the Hon'ble Member thought that it was not possible for him to find money for its operation, it was only fair that he should have told the House about it and warned the enthusiasts that however keen they might be about its immediate operation, there were no prospects of their hopes being fulfilled. But what the Government did was to allow the Bill to be passed. Not only that, the Hon'ble Minister gave assurance that he would allow no grass to grow under his feet to put the Act into operation. The Hon'ble Finance Member ought to have warned the Minister for Education against being too optimistic and to raise false hopes in the country. This attitude of the Government is neither fair to them nor to this House nor to the country at large. I would ask both the Hon'ble Finance Member as well as the Hon'ble Minister for Education to seriously consider this aspect of the question. The expenses for secondary and collegiate education as compared with the expenses for primary education are larger in Bengal than they are in any other province in India. I do not for a moment grudge the furtherance of secondary and collegiate education. But what I would like to emphasise is the utter disregard of the Government towards primary education. Appalling illiteracy of the masses is unable to attract the sympathy of the Government. If the Government claim to be the guardians and trustees of the dumb and illiterate millions, they cannot say that their duty is finished by spending a few lakhs for secondary and collegiate education and very little for primary education. You speak of political discontent and civil disobedience. But do not you think that your policy is responsible for such discontent? Your system of education is increasing this discontent and your policy in keeping the masses in illiteracy, is making it easy for the discontented politicians to exploit the masses to their advantage. The sure and most effective remedy is mass education, free and compulsory and certainly not giving more and more opportunities for education which is swelling the ranks of the discontented. I urge the Government with all the emphasis I can command to seriously consider this problem of mass education. For my part, I would accept no scheme of Government which does not include adequate provisions for free compulsory primary education. There is yet time before it is too late.

I appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Member and the Minister for Education to give their best consideration to this all-important matter.

3-30 p.m.

Mr. SYAMAPROSAD MOOKERJEE: As it is necessary to confine myself to the 15 minutes' time-limit, I shall come directly to the three points on which I propose to speak to-day. They are first, whether the economy which is claimed by the Hon'ble Finance Member to have been carried to drastic proportions has been really carried out in full; secondly whether there has been any misdirected economy; and thirdly, some general observations on particular heads of the budget and on the developmental services such as Education, Industries and Agriculture.

As regards the first point let me refer to the charges for allowances, supplies and services and contingencies under the following heads:—

(i) Partition and Record Room Establishment;

(ii) Collections from khas mahals;

(iii) Survey and Settlements;

(iv) Forests and Registration;

(v) Governor's household;

(vi) District administration, High Court, Civil and Sessions Courts;

(vii) Police; and

(viii) Agriculture.

I find that the total expenditure for allowances, supplies and services and contingencies under certain minor heads of the preceding heads amounts to over Rs. 78,50,000. If all the heads in the budget are taken, the amount may approach, if not exceed, a crore of rupees. Can the Hon'ble Member, who says that he has made every possible retrenchment and cut down every item of avoidable expenditure, assert that he has severely scrutinised these heads and is unable to reduce the charges? Was it not possible to cut expenditure down by ten per cent. or even by five per cent.? Contingencies, supplies and services and allowances, as everybody knows, include, as a rule, many items which cannot stand the test of public exposure and criticism and they cover a multitude of petty extravagances whose combined effect is indeed enormous. The Hon'ble Member should have directed his attention to these heads where there were possibilities of great economy.

Another potential head of economy is "41—Civil Works." It is claimed that heavy retrenchments have been made under this head. An examination of the figures, however, shows that, on the transferred side, reductions have been effected under "Original works" but under "Repairs" the revised estimate shows an increase of Rs. 2,50,000 over the actuals of 1929-30, and the budget for next year an increase of Rs. 1,50,000. This shows that no attempt has been made to reduce

expenditure under a head where it is most capable of reduction. Further it is not stated anywhere in the financial statement whether owing to contraction in the programme of original works from Rs. 22,30,000 to Rs. 9,50,000, that is, by nearly Rs. 13 lakhs, any reduction was possible in the establishment charges.

The staff and household of His Excellency the Governor include the following items:—

	Rs.
Bodyguard	1,00,000
Band	70,000
Motor cars	39,000

We have discussed the question of bodyguard and band on different occasions on the floor of this House and it is not my desire to attack these particular items merely for the pleasure of attacking them. But I do ask very seriously, was it impossible, in view of the depressed state of finances, even to postpone the purchase of motor cars at a cost of Rs. 39,000? It has been well said that the bodyguard is a relic of the barbaric age when the despot used to secure the protection of his person by a faithful and loyal group of followers or sycophants. In a democratic age this is an anachronism. Is this institution as well as the band establishment going to be perpetuated? Can the Hon'ble Member certify that these are legitimate expenses beneficial to the public and properly chargeable to the public funds, or that no substantial reduction was possible in these enormous expenses?

The collections from Government estates amount to Rs. 70 lakhs and their management costs about Rs. 15,50,000 or more than 20 per cent. of the total collections. Is the Hon'ble Member convinced that 20 per cent. collection charge is fair and reasonable and that no economy is possible here? Has any one in authority ever inquired into the extravagant charges for management?

On page 102 of the budget I find that Rs. 3,72,000 is repeated in the revised estimate of the current year for purchasing Nos. 5 and 6, Government Place, from the Government of India. Will the Hon'ble Member inform the House of the justification of this expenditure and tell us if it could not be postponed till better times?

Under head "55—Irrigation" I find a provision of Rs. 15,68,000 for works, and Rs. 3,05,000 for establishment. The establishment cost does not appear to be disproportionately high compared with the cost for works.

Further instances may be cited, but I have referred to the above only as typical examples, and I expect the Hon'ble Member will furnish the House with straight answers to these straight questions.

The whole budget is scattered with figures which on the face of them are evidence of thoughtless administration and of a feeble, hasty and perfunctory attempt at retrenchments without any judicious discretion to maintain the essential services in efficient condition by cutting down all superfluities and extravagances.

From these observations, I naturally pass on to my second point, namely, is there any mis-directed economy? As the representative of the University the heads that at once arrest my attention are grants to the Calcutta University and to private colleges and schools. The Calcutta University has been object of Government displeasure since the creation of its great teaching departments and had to fight against the strenuous opposition of high officers of the Education Department. I have no desire to refer to-day to the details of those years of controversy and struggle. The University had in the first instance to fight a formidable opponent, the Government of India, and latterly the Government of Bengal's popular Ministry, in order to establish its claim to State assistance, and last but not the least we had to defend ourselves very recently against the *lathi* blows of Sir Charles Tegart and his trusty lieutenant Mr. Gordon. Successive Vice-Chancellors, members of the Senate and members of this Council had to suffer rebuffs, humiliations and disappointments in their defence of University policy and finance. No one claims perfection for the University; no human institution is perfect, not even the present Ministry of Education. But I take my stand on the solid work which the University has hitherto done. Not its worst opponents will deny that it has furnished recruits of every grade, from the highest to the lowest, to the judiciary, the administration and to the legislature. Not its worst opponents will deny that it has furnished scholars of the highest reputation to the colleges and the Universities from one end of India to the other. It is now in its last gasp starving for want of a few lakhs and largely depending on the favour of one or two members of the Indian Civil Service, who hold the key to the administration in their hands. The present uncertain attitude of Government has evoked strong protest and dislike among the teachers and members of the University, the former tolerating with commendable patience and loyalty to their *alma mater* temporary tenures depending on temporary grants. It is discreditable to Government that the University, the centre of culture and enlightenment, the mother of thousands of scholars, who have adorned every sphere of our public life, should be reduced to a condition of suspended animation owing to the misdirected economy of Government, while the other departments are fattening at the expense of public funds. I do not propose to go into the details of University finance to-day as I shall have ample opportunity to do so at the time of voting of grants. But I do express the hope that a satisfactory solution of this problem, which is slowly but steadily assuming a formidable shape, will soon be

reached, for on that alone depends the very existence of the University which, in spite of all its shortcomings, stands to-day as the foremost academic centre in India.

Another instance is the suspension (or as the Hon'ble Member chooses to say "non-utilisation") of the grants to private colleges, schools and other miscellaneous grants amounting to Rs. 1,29,000, Rs. 91,000 and Rs. 39,000, respectively. In the budget it is asserted that the grants are not considered immediately essential; in other words, unlike the agencies for law and order, educational institutions can well suspend their breadth for twelve months and yet remain alive, while the Governor cannot do without his bodyguard or band or new motor cars or the police, without a reduction of even 5 per cent. in their allotment for allowances and contingencies which amount to nearly Rs. 50 lakhs.

Other instances of misdirected economy include grants for encouragement of scientific societies and for the maintenance of the School of Art in its present state.

I now come to my third point, namely, general observations on some heads of the budget.

Under "Excise" the revenue for the current year is lower by about Rs. 47 lakhs as compared with the budget From the financial point of view this is no doubt disastrous but I cannot help remarking that the financial side has its counterpoise in the moral side and the effect on the drinking habits of the people reflected in the fall of revenue cannot be regarded by all well-wishers of the country without some amount of genuine satisfaction.

On page 244 of the Civil Budget Estimate there appears a provision of about Rs. 23 lakhs under an unostentatious head "Other claims" for which no details are given. It is against all principle of public accounting that such a large lump sum should be provided in the budget without a clear indication of the details which the head includes.

An analysis of the expenditure on Agriculture shows that salaries, establishment and allowances absorb nearly 8 lakhs of rupees and public gardens about 2 lakhs of rupees out of a total grant of nearly Rs. 13 lakhs. The public gardens include the Botanical and Zoological gardens. One may connect Botany with Agriculture but is human imagination so elastic as to connect Agriculture with Zoology as well? Our Minister of Agriculture, whom I do not find here just now, a man of imagination no doubt, will perhaps explain how he or his department proposes to benefit by such a close association with the Zoological Gardens. If these items are excluded, only Rs. 3 lakhs remain for pure agriculture.

Similarly, under "Industries" (transferred) the budget provides for Rs. 8,25,000 which includes Rs. 3,38,000 for salaries, establishment

and allowances, and the balance, after deducting other non-essential items, barely exceeds Rs. 4 lakhs which represents the activity of Government for the encouragement and development of industries in a province consisting of 45 millions.

The next item, and for want of time this is my last item, against which we have a perennial complaint is a legacy of past administrative blunders. This complaint will not be hushed into silence until this gigantic blunder is rectified by suitable penance in departments such as Agriculture, Sanitation, Industries and Education. I refer to the expenditure of Rs. 1,01,89,000 for the purchase of two dredgers which are imposing an annual unproductive burden of over Rs. 7 lakhs on the public funds. One of the dredgers has been undergoing transportation for one year in the Andamans for which the Government of India will pay us some rent which will give the finances some relief. The civil disobedience movement mainly, it is argued, has cost Bengal nearly Rs. 28 lakhs on the expenditure side and Rs 40 lakhs on the revenue side, amounting to a total of Rs. 68 lakhs. But the irresponsible action—which I prefer to call moral disobedience—of some high-placed officials has placed Government under a burden of debt to the tune of a crore of rupees involving an annual liability of Rs. 7 lakhs. By the time the loan with interest is repaid the dredgers will become unserviceable and the waste will be complete. The late Mr. C. R. Das proposed about seven years ago that a loan should be raised to ameliorate the condition of the thirsty, hungry, ill-clad and illiterate villagers in Bengal. Government considered, discussed, hesitated, vacillated and ultimately threw the scheme out. But there was not much hesitation, not much discussion, no twang of conscience, when it decided to buy the two white elephants after carefully weighing the claims of European commerce for convenient trade route to the Eastern districts of Bengal and of the millions of people who had no water to drink, no meals to eat, no physique to work with, no agricultural or industrial facilities to avail of.

Our duty now is not to fight civil disobedience but moral disobedience of Government which is more responsible for bad finance than the former.

3-45 p.m.

Rai Bahadur KAMINI KUMAR DAS: Mr. President, Sir, after so many able speeches I would not seek for your kind permission to say a few words if I had no honest conviction of my own. The Government of Bengal is composed of His Excellency the Governor at its head, Hon'ble Members, Hon'ble Ministers and members of this Council. In short His Excellency is carrying on the administration with the help and co-operation of the members in different ranks. So it is the plain duty of all of us to help all departments of the Government in

all possible ways. It is not so much discouraging, so much gloomy to read the budget figures as to hear the gloomy and cheerless utterances. My hon'ble friends are all one in admitting world-wide depreciation in trade and the effect of civil disobedience. It cannot be denied that depreciation in trade will affect the revenue and fall in revenue will surely tell upon the whole administration. A hon'ble friend of mine has been pleased to observe that there has been reduction of expenditure under all heads except "Police" and "Jails." He finds fault with maintenance of secret service and his advice is to cast an eye of indifference on civil disobedience movement which will then die a natural death. My friend is honest. His conviction is surely so; and I will not blame the heads of the Government if they do not share the same opinion. Secret service there had been in time historic and prehistoric and it will be in all times to come.

I would be one with my friends. I would rather dare stand above as Councillor and will proclaim at the top of my voice that the police expenditure should be curtailed to its lowest possible limit but not before all of us had come forward to have volunteer corps formed in all districts to help the Government in protecting the interest of our King and country. I am second to none in wishing that the civil disobedience movement should die a natural death but before it happens is it not the duty of those who have come to support the legally constituted Government to see that this movement does not prejudicially affect the interest of the land and the administration in any way? No more of this as opinion may differ.

We have heard enough about maladministration and want of tact and brain but there have been few speeches which show and suggest positive ways and means to get over the deficit in the budget. There is some suggestion about the harmful operation of the Amended Tenancy Act and also about forming a Retrenchment Committee. These are all good in their own ways. Some of my hon'ble friends have concluded with words of sympathy and have sympathised with the Finance Member in his unenviable position. That I will not do. I will not excuse the Hon'ble Member if he borrows about 95 lakhs of rupees. The wisest of all sayings is:

দিবসস্যাষ্টমে ভাগে শাকং পচতি যো নরঃ
অঋণী অপ্রবাসী চ সবারিচরমোদতে।

"Happy is he who lives even on one meal of vegetable a day provided he is not in debt and has not to live away from his house."

Surely no budget will be framed which will make the members live in their own respective houses but I hope the budget will be such that there would be no necessity for incurring any debt. Incurring debt will be extremely dangerous as there is little prospect of having better days in the near future and so little prospect of clearing it up.

Some of my hon'ble friends have urged upon the Government to look after the zamindars and others to protect the poor tenants. There is only one way of helping both the classes and that is with the help of agriculture. God of Fortune lives in trade, half in agriculture and half of that in service but not at all in begging. About begging we the people of India are striking examples and about trade people of the West will surely testify to. As trade has depreciated throughout the world let us take to agriculture and under the same head Co-operative Department. I would therefore urge on the Hon'ble Members of the Government to concentrate their attention to agriculture.

As a co-operator throughout my life I honestly maintain that it is a fulcrum that would lift the world. The blessings of the co-operative credit societies have gone a great way in relieving the agricultural indebtedness and the considerable amelioration of condition of the people in general is being affected in various ways by all the ramifications of the co-operative system. That India has been a country of countries to understand the value of co-operation is truly borne out by the overwhelming results which are too well-known. The gradual release of the masses from the thraldom of usury, the improvement of the indigenous system of money-lending, the inculcation of the principle of thrift and self-help are some of the most direct and tangible results of the movement.

About the prospects of the co-operative movement truly Sir Arthur Cotten Lay said: "That is the very thing for India and whatever expectation you may have formed as to results multiply them ten-fold and you will find them exceeded." I would therefore ask the Hon'ble Member not to neglect agriculture in any way if he expects to better the condition of Bengal which is pre-eminently an agricultural province.

All these may be conjectures and speculations and I would therefore join hands with my hon'ble friends who suggest formation of a Retrenchment Committee and before such formation and before urging for it I would expect that those whom I have styled in the beginning as different limbs of the same body Government should come forward with their own offer to show the way to curtailment which will reflect honour and honour only on them. I would then dare suggest that the members of this Council will not lag behind in helping the Government.

With these suggestions and reserving my opinion on different items as they come up I will conclude by enjoining on all of you members of the Government of Bengal to join hands to come to a solution as to how these Rs. 95 lakhs can be met which I hope and trust will not be at all difficult. Surely it would be showing bad

managership if out of Rs. 11 crores, 95 lakhs cannot be found out to make up the deficit and make you live not in debt.

Babu SATYA KINKAR SAHANA: Mr. President, Sir, in making a few observations on the budget presented to us the other day I would like to mention that already there is a buzzing in the country regarding it. One gentleman remarked that it was a dwarf budget of which the head was so abnormally developed that the attenuated trunk and extremities could scarcely carry it with any semblance of ease; another gentleman remarked that though the fount was meagre this year, the orchids and chrysanthemums have got more than their share of the moisture but the wheat and paddy, which sustain the people, have been starved and stunted.

Sir, I confess I am not in the rank of those malcontents and am ready to dismiss such remarks as irresponsible and the outcome of want of proper knowledge of the intricate administrative machinery. I would rather offer hearty congratulations to the Hon'ble Mr. Marr for steering the financial boat so carefully and cautiously through the Scylla of meagre revenue on one side and the Charybdis of political troubles and disturbances on the other.

Sir, I admit that abnormal diseases require abnormal treatment; and considering the present condition of the country I do not grumble at the police estimate going up two rounds at a leap. But, Sir, I am filled with apprehension that if law and order is to be maintained at such a tremendous cost, a few years hence the cry for law and order from the people will not be heard; if to cure one abnormally diseased limb the normal limbs are to be neglected and starved, the cure of the diseased limb will scarcely bring in healthful life to the whole body.

Sir, during my struggle of life for more than half a century I have been fully convinced of the truth of the Sanskrit saying, so often used by Bengalis, that penury is the destroyer of many virtues and I keenly feel the inequity of the Meston award throwing one of the richest provinces in India in the mire of penury. But it pains me more to notice that in my poor country inequity is as catching as the epidemics that are our constant companions in the rural areas. Sir, Bengal is the reputed land of *Nyaya*, one synonym of which is equity, unfortunately Bengal has nowadays become a land of the negation of *Nyaya*. A rich province has been made poor by a stroke of the pen and then in the impoverished province an administration has been set up which is more costly than the administration of some of the richest countries in the world. Sir, this anomaly of a costly administration in a poor country, I venture to suspect, is one of the major causes of the storm and stress that has so immensely disturbed the normal life of the country. Sir, in this year of world-wide

depression the officers in England, which is immensely rich, have consented to the reduction of 10 per cent. of their salaries; is it too much, Sir, to expect of the officers of our Government who so often declare themselves to be the friend of the people offering to accept a reduction of 25 per cent. of their salaries to bring the administration in a line with the penury of the country?

Considering the present vexed condition of the country I do not like to speak against the heavy grants for police and jails; but, yet I would like to see equity and not inequity reigning over those departments. Why should the police in Calcutta, which is rolling in wealth and luxury, be maintained at the cost of the province? Why should the Calcutta Police consume more than 1/5th of the police grant? This, Sir, to say the least, is a mundane misapplication of the spiritual saying of Jesus Christ.

Leaving aside the police and such other departments, the essential necessity of which for administration cannot be denied, when one comes to Health, Education and Agriculture, the three main pegs on which the existence of the nation hangs, one painfully notices inequity reigning supreme there. The major portion of the grants on those heads is spent in the urban areas, only a small fraction is left for the villages; when the few drops, so carefully weighed, dripple down to the villages where the nation lives, the hand of inequity takes them away from those for whose benefit every farthing of it should have been used; the major portion of the money received after such filtration is consumed in keeping costly officers and more costly supervisors. Thinking over the way of expenditure in those departments, I am often reminded, Sir, of a *sradh* that created some sensation in our part of the country fifty years before by giving a rude shock to the sense of propriety and equity of the simple people of those days. In that *sradh* twenty rupees had been spent for purchasing edibles, fifty rupees had been paid to the cooks and *khidmatgars* for their labour, and a pair of shawls, costing Rs. 250 had been given to the gentleman who took the trouble of supervising the cooking.

Sir, we all know how the health, education and agriculture of Bengal have immensely deteriorated. Some 45 years back, when I was a student at Giridih, one of the healthiest stations of that time, I used to spend two to three months in my native village in Indas thana of Bankura; instead of losing health I used to profit by the change. But nowadays one staying for 24 hours in any village in Indas thana is sure to imbibe such a big dose of malarial poison as to keep him bedridden for at least one month.

4 p.m.

As to Education, Sir, I have every reason to think that there was more literacy in the country formerly than at present. In my boyish

days there were literates amongst the Bagdis and Doms, belonging to the depressed classes, some of whom served as *gomosthas* under landlords. I do not know how many literates will be found in the present census among those classes.

As to Agriculture, it is far behind the improved agriculture of all civilised countries. Instead of improving, it has not been moving in the same groove in which it used to move before the birth of Buddha. Though the same method of agriculture, that is to be found in his book on Agriculture by Parasara, who flourished more than three thousand years ago, is still prevailing, the same implements are not in use; and only a less scientific method of preservation of manure than what had been prescribed by Parasara is prevalent now. Then, Sir, owing to the silting up of rivers, channels and tanks, various crops that used to be grown formerly cannot be grown now.

Sir, this all-round deterioration has made the condition of the villages so desperate that if no drastic steps be taken to improve them, after a few years no money, I fear, will be required for them, save a little to maintain a few *neo*-Goldsmiths to sing the dirge over the deserted villages of Bengal.

Sir, this deplorable condition of the villages and villagers has provided a ready handle to the agitators to stir up anti-Government feeling in the country. Extinction stares the villagers in the face, and those illiterate and ignorant people cannot be much blamed if they put explicit faith in the educated *bhadralok* who approach them from the towns and attribute all their miseries to the doings of the Government.

Sir, as I desire peace and prosperity in the country and cordiality between the rulers and the ruled, I would ask the Government seriously to think of introducing a changed mentality in the administration—more confidence, more economy, more equity. Sir, in our world of reciprocity love generates love, and distrust, distrust. To love the people and be loved in return, I think, is the only way to bring in peace and prosperity in the country. A contented and prosperous people is and should be the only desirable goal of all administrations. Sir, in bringing in cordiality between the rulers and the ruled, the first move should be made by the stronger party, the rulers, and no question of false prestige should stand in the way.

The Government often calls for co-operation from the people, and we are here for co-operation. But, Sir, co-operation cannot be one-sided; like compromise it is mutual and stands on the principle of give-and-take. It cannot be expected, Sir, that Indians will be rendering to Government the co-operation of a Caliban. The world has fast been spinning down the ringing grooves of change, and nowadays though a Prospero, with his powerful magician's wand, be a possible sight, the race of Calibans, like the mammoths, is a thing of the past and cannot be brought back to existence by any human effort.

Maulvi HASSAN ALI: Mr. President, Sir, I had no desire to take any part in this ceremonial discussion of the budget, but certain observations, with respect to the causes of the fall of revenue and increase in expenditure, on the part of the Hon'ble the Finance Member have made a change in my mind.

Sir, I will not say here that the budget is a disappointing one. For certainly it is so. At a time when every day peace-talks are being dinned into our ears, when we are told that the reins of Government are going to be handed over to the people of the country very soon, we naturally expect to see some change in the budget with regard to the financial policy of the Government underlying the whole scheme of the revenue and the expenditure heads. But the whole scheme gives a direct lie to our natural hopes.

The whole psychology of the budget is clear. The Government's mentality is not changed a bit even. The Government's policy of maintaining the false prestige and *zad* at the cost of the people is still visible there. But I will not dilate upon that any further, Sir.

From the budget itself and from the admission of the Hon'ble Mr. Marr it is clear that the financial position of Bengal is gloomy and that the prospects are even gloomier for the next year. And here we cannot but congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Member for his grand optimistic courage when he hopes that the abnormal conditions of things will soon disappear and that we shall land very soon upon a soil of hope and felicity. Sir, to my mind this is hoping against hope.

It is true—and we all know it—that the financial gloom has overspread the country. The phenomenal fall in the prices of agricultural commodities of Bengal, especially of jute and rice, have rendered the people destitute of any ready money. There is not even any loanable fund available in the country. The loan offices have mostly stopped further advances. The situation has thus become most horribly desperate. And the Government is on the verge of losing its financial equilibrium. That is so, Sir. But who is responsible for such a desperate condition of the country? And what has brought about this horrible financial gloom throughout the length and breadth of the country?

The Hon'ble Mr. Marr wants to bring home to us that the two factors which have mainly contributed to this disastrous situation are (1) bountifulness of Nature causing over-production of jute and rice together with the world-wide depression in trade and commerce, and (2) the subversive civil disobedience movement. But, Sir, neither from academic nor from practical points of view are his arguments anything like convincing for I hold that neither the bounty of Nature nor the bounty of nationalism of men and women of Bengal can be responsible for the financial crisis in the country. The bountifulness of Nature in

overproducing the foodgrains can never be regarded as an evil. The only question with regard to the raw materials of the country has been and is their proper distribution and proper marketing.

Have the Government of this country ever thought of the poor agriculturists of Bengal? Have they ever given any thought over the controlling of prices of jute? Have the Government ever during these two centuries of British rule bothered themselves about how to organise the rice market so that the poor cultivators might not have fallen a hopeless victim to such a serious slump in commodity prices? The answer is "No."

It is true that the slump in the commodity prices has reduced the buying power of the cultivators, who cannot purchase anything in exchange for the agricultural products, and so the general slump in trade all round. But is not your ruinous exchange policy responsible for this? And has not the Government policy of rupee contraction, with the object of keeping up the high exchange value of the rupee at 1*s.* 6*d.*, rendered the people destitute by crores of coins? Has not thus your exchange ratio produced this awful scarcity of rupees which further lowering the prices of the agricultural produce has reduced the raiyats to their present unthinkably helpless condition?

In the next place the Hon'ble Mr. Marr tells us that the subversive political movement has seriously disturbed the budget. There is thus increase in the proposed expenditure on "Police," "Jails," "Convict Settlements" and other heads of like nature. But a year back there was no civil disobedience movement; two years back there was no subversive movement, and five years back there was none like that. Yet what do we find? Was there any less expenditure on these heads in previous years? A comparison of the figures on police heads from 1925-26 onwards shows that the expenditure on police is going up by leaps and bounds every year. And will the Hon'ble Member in charge of Finance yet say that the increase is due to the civil disobedience movement?

Are we not to suppose that you want to govern the people not according to their own wishes, but by overawing the people by a display of the perpetual array of police, provided with muskets and gun. But that is a thing which ought no more to be.

Sir, at this juncture, at such an economic crisis, we naturally expected that our budget would undergo a thorough-going retrenchment reducing the general expenditure to a half at least. But instead of having that we find that there has been a general increase in the expenditure on "Jails" and "Police" and the like, and there has been a decrease in the expenditure on nation-building departments such as Medical and Agriculture.

From this are we to understand that malaria and other diseases have been eradicated from the soil, and agriculture has been improved to its farthest limit? Or are we to understand that the Government thinks that the only disease in Bengal is the mania of nationalism and the only remedy for that is the increased provision of jails and prison houses.

I submit, Sir, that you may erect whatever number of additional jails you like, but that is no remedy at all. I do not think that any number of jails will be of any avail when jail-life has been a creed with every son and daughter of the soil and when every child of the land regards himself to be already in a prison-house in his own home.

[At 4-15 p.m. the Council was adjourned for prayer and it reassembled at 4-25 p.m.]

Babu KISHORI MOHAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, at first I did not intend to take part in the budget discussion but I have since thought it my duty to enter a protest in certain matters. The budget discloses a most deplorable state of things. What Government wants at present is not money but statesmanship. We began last year with an opening balance of Rs. 2,23,00,000. Last year we took away over Rs. 28,00,000 and this year our opening balance is Rs 1,94,00,000. We are now informed that the year is likely to be closed with a balance of a little over Rs. 44,00,000, so that we are practically spending Rs. 1,50,00,000 in managing the affairs of Government in one year. For the next year, we are told, that our expenditure will be increased. Though our revenue is expected to fall by over a crore we are told we must spend more this year. To cover this closing balance it is proposed that we should borrow from the Government of India about Rs. 94,00,000 but in spite of that we still have a deficit. Leaving aside the untouchable there will be a small closing balance of Rs. 4 or 5 lakhs but we are told this will be required for the police. If we take a loan from the Government of India how are we going to repay it? We had accumulated a little fortune during the last few years by economic management and for this we thank the Hon'ble Finance Member, but almost the whole will be swallowed up. Our expectations of a closing balance of Rs. 1 crore this year has not been realised. What is the consequence? I think it will be a disaster. You remember, Sir, that at the beginning of the Reforms we were given a large sum for sanitation and education and we then told that Bengal would be a prosperous country, that there would be a large surplus and the Government of India would take from us Rs. 63,00,000 a year. Very soon we saw, Sir, that there was a heavy deficit and the question arose as to how to meet this deficit. We complained against the heavy expenditure of Government but our complaints were not heeded to.

Taxes were imposed and we were told by the then Finance Member and by Lord Ronaldshay, when he addressed the Council, that the jute tax would be paid over to Bengal and the entire amount of the other taxations would be reserved for the nation-building departments. I am not afraid of an education cess, but I am afraid that this cess also will be taken for the ordinary purpose of the administration as was done on the last occasion. A deputation went to the Government of India, of which the present Finance Member was a member, and they made a concession to Bengal of this Rs. 63 lakhs for a few years. How are we going to proceed? We expect some improvement. If the cost of administration is lowered there may be some improvement. Under the new constitution we are told there will be some improvement but we do not know whether another Meston Award is in store for us. In the circumstances we should not consent to the passing of the budget as it is. For next year we should cut down our expenditure to the extent of our income this year. We asked for this before, but Government paid no attention to our repeated demands. We can do nothing. So long as the official members are there, and the nominated members are there and the European group are there, we are in the minority. I think we should record our protest against this sort of budget. This year several taxes are going to be imposed by the Government of India which will tell very heavily upon us, and if we fail to improve our finances I suppose some new taxations will have to be thought out. We cannot proceed in this way and I think it is the duty of the House to enter a strong and emphatic protest against this and we should not agree to the passing of the budget as it is. We can pass the budget for expenditure only up to the amount of our income, upon which we can safely depend. It is useless to make a cut here and there. Expenditure must be cut down in a lump.

With these few words I beg to protest against the passing of this budget.

I cannot but enter an emphatic protest against these extravagances and cannot but plead for retrenchment in Government's expenditure.

4-45 p.m.

Mr. SARAT KUMAR ROY: Sir, as one of the representatives of the landholding community I rise to join my voice with that of my friend and colleague Kumar Shib Shekhareswar Ray in appealing to the Government to consider the grave situation created by the present great economic depression to all people in Bengal and specially to the landholders and their raiyats. It is a well known fact that if the raiyats flourish then their landlords will flourish and that if they go down their landlords go down with them too. The Kumar Sahib was not a bit exaggerating when he said that the landlords have hardly been able to realise even a fourth of their dues from their tenants.

At the time of the Permanent Settlement hardly any margin was left to the landlords by the Government out of the rents they realized from their tenants. The hardships which ensued to the zamindars then as a result of this step can be shown by an example even from my own family. Sir, my fifth ancestor was so very hard hit by the settlement that had not his brave wife come forward then to take charge of the rearing of the family by farming of khamar lands he would have found it absolutely impossible to farm, the Government revenues, and the Dighapatiya estates, which are now pretty extensive, would have been utterly ruined at the time. Even this arrangement could not entirely save the family from maddening worries, unmitigated hardships and repeated bereavements. Then gradually the landlords recovered by the development of their estates and thus creating a margin for themselves. But, Sir, even now there are properties whose Government revenues exceed 50 per cent. of their collection, so that after meeting the collection and management charges and other dues, hardly sufficient margin is left to meet the maintenance charges of the proprietors, not to speak of savings to meet the difficulties of the rainy days.

This is the case with the zamindars, but there are others such as the patnidars, darpatnidars, maurashidars, darmaurashidars, tenure-holders, etc., between a zamindar and the actual cultivator. These people, who I claim form the majority of the population of Bengal and who too are landlords, according to the present definition of the term, are the greatest sufferers perhaps in this present distress as their margins of profit are even less than those of the zamindars. But they have one redeeming feature in their favour, which the zamindars have not, for they have no fear of the sunset law and are not also absolutely obliged to pay their dues on the appointed dates. Therefore I submit, Sir, that the zamindars are in greater difficulties than their under-rightors or even their raiyats in this respect and so certainly deserve consideration from the Government at this present crisis.

Sir, the zamindars never I believe had to face such a great difficulty since they recovered from the effects of the Permanent Settlement, and so never perhaps before this requested the Government to take their pitiable case into consideration. On the contrary they have so long been steadily and regularly paying their dues ungrudgingly to the Government and which, as my friend, the Kumar has already remarked, have formed and still form the most dependable bulk of the revenue of the Government. Now, for once, Sir, the zamindars implore the Government to take into consideration their present helpless condition and make whatever concessions the Government deem fit and desirable under the circumstances.

Sir, it is contended in certain quarters that the zamindars deserve no sympathy whatever, as by the Permanent Settlement they became immensely rich and it ie their fault if they failed to store enough against

their rainy days. Sir, I have to meet this sort of argument, already related the real state of affairs occasioned by the Permanent Settlement by citing an example from my own family. I have also mentioned what a small margin was then left to the zamindars and how they had to spend that for the development of their estates. As a result except for certain big zamindars the majority found it difficult to save. Those estates which were already developed sufficiently at the time of the Permanent Settlement and which were many, could not be developed more to augment their incomes and thus create margins out of them. So if some of the zamindars did derive real benefits from it afterwards, certainly a great many of them could not do so. The people who talk of big margins of profit now enjoyed by the zamindars, forget that these big margins are distributed among a vast number of people, so that except in the case of a few "big" zamindars the incomes of individual landholders dwindle down practically to pittances.

Sir, when this is the state of affairs in Bengal, the settlement operations are being pushed on vigorously in certain districts by the Government, and the recovery of the settlement dues is also being insisted upon. What with to have to spend money required for watching the settlement operations in various parts of their estates and the tenants withholding their payments not only for the economic depression but also for these settlement operations in certain districts, the zamindars to pay the Government revenues and the settlemnt dues have to face a situation which spells utter ruin to them if the Government at this juncture fail to extend a helping hand to them, who not only contributed steadily the major portion of their revenue, but were and perhaps, if I am allowed to say so, still are, the principal supporters of the Government.

Mr. S. M. BOSE: Mr. President, Sir, I confess, one hardly sees the utility of these annual discussions on the budget except that he is free to survey mankind from China to Peru and may safely disregard all considerations of relevancy without fear of that stern task master who rules us with a rod of iron on other occasions.

I wish to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Member for the very frank budget speech in which he has been preparing us for the worst though hoping for the best. It is indeed difficult to criticise this deficit budget.

I do not propose, however, to roam over a large field. I wish to deal very briefly with three points which none of the speakers have discussed.

The first two deal with matters very much before the public eye, *viz.*, question of Swadeshi goods and temperance.

Sir, it has been usual to talk of boycott of British goods but many of us do not believe in a hymn of hatred—a negation that leads us to

a morass of difficulties. We rather found our preference on a *positive* basis of love of one's countrymen and of the goods they produce. Now with the tremendous expansion of Indian manufacture and commerce within recent years, is it too much to expect that the Government of Bengal should patronise India-made goods to the exclusion of foreign goods? I want to ask the Hon'ble Member in charge of Industries and of Stores to tell us how much percentage of value of goods ordered by the Government of Bengal is for India-made goods? I would go further—I would ask the Government of Bengal to give preference to Bengal-made goods, even at small sacrifice. For instance, if high class boots and shoes are being made in Bengal sufficient to answer Government requirements, why order them from Punjab? I had tabled a resolution in order to draw the attention of the Government to this matter. I venture to request the Minister for Industries to follow up the policy of preference I have suggested above.

Sir, with a good deal of trepidation and hesitation, I venture to go one step further and bring to the notice of the House the demand for preference not only for Bengal *goods* but also for Bengal *men*. It is a notorious fact that there is and has been for years very acute unemployment among the *bhadrolok* class in Bengal and that Bengal is being flooded by legions of non-Bengalees. Hindus and Moslems and others who are children of the soil are shut out of employment by such persons. It is useless to disguise the fact that there is a rising tide of opinion that demands preference for those domiciled in Bengal. Rightly or wrongly there is a considerable feeling that while one hears the cry "Behar for the Beharis", "Burma for the Burmans", etc., we in Bengal find the slogan "Bengal for the non-Bengalees". Sir, rightly or wrongly, Hindus and Moslems in Bengal demand that the children of the soil have a right to appointments to public offices in Bengal. We in Bengal suffer for our broadminded, universal, nationalist point of view. We all know that in advertisements for Government posts in some other provinces it is openly stated that preference will be given to those domiciled in those provinces. I only ask that a similar rule should be observed by the Government of Bengal.

Sir, I am well aware that this is a very delicate matter, that we nationalists regard no caste or creed or community as a bar, that our cry is "Advance United India". But we are going to have Provincial Autonomy and each of the autonomous States is entitled to look to the interest of its people and demand reciprocal treatment. Is it, therefore, wrong on my part, to ask the Home Member and his colleagues—the seven wise men in whose hands is entrusted the destiny of Bengal—to bear in mind the demand for preference for Bengal men and Bengal goods?

I now pass to the second topic, the temperance question. As I said during the course of budget debate last year, prohibition is an all-India demand. I complained of the lack of policy on the part of the

Government. Sir, I advocate the gradual abolition of the Excise revenue, within a definite period of time—just as was done in the case of opium revenue. I do so, not for any ulterior motive—motive to embarrass the Government—but from a desire to uplift the masses of my countrymen. It has been said that you cannot make men sober by an Act of Parliament; still less can you do so by forcible picketing The trend of events makes it clear that the national demand for abolition of the drink traffic will be carried out as soon as we get provincial autonomy. Whether we want it or not, the Excise revenue is bound to diminish. The Hon'ble Finance Member has stated in his speech in reply to my question that nine months' actuals of such revenue in 1930-31 show a fall of over Rs. 35 lakhs as compared with the revenue during the same period in 1929-30.

That being so, Government must be prepared now boldly to face facts and get ready with a scheme drawn up on the basis of total disappearance of the Excise revenue. But we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that such revenue forms one-fifth of the total revenue of Bengal. So Government must devise ways and means. I cordially agree with the view of my friend Khan Bahadur Azizul Haque when he said last March that if prohibition be enforced, he would be quite prepared to face the prospect of new taxation if other means fail. That, I take it, is the view of us all. So I would request the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Excise, to consider, in the cool heights of Darjeeling, whether he should not from now start consulting leaders of thought in Bengal. I suggest the appointment of a small committee to explore schemes and methods of bringing about the prohibition in the future. In this matter, Indians —Hindus, Moslems or Christians—are at one and this is a matter that vitally affects the health and prosperity of our countrymen.

May I, here, incidentally congratulate the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical and Public Health for his success in being able to soften the stony heart of the Hon'ble Finance Member who hails from the city of granite and is thus eminently fit for his post? The Hon'ble Minister has managed to get an increased grant of about Rs. 2½ lakhs on the revised estimate for 1930-31 for Medical and also a grant of nearly Rs. 5 lakhs more than the revised estimate for 1930-31 for Public Health.

I sympathise with the Hon'ble Minister for Education for the reduced grant but congratulate him on being able to make the usual grant to non-Government arts colleges. After all it is some consolation to think that one must first live and then be educated. For what good is education to a man when he is dead? So Medical and Public Health must necessarily come first.

Turning now to my third and last topic, I want to know, if any, and if so, what, provision in the budget has been made about committees

that should be formed at once to carry on here the work of the Round Table Conference. On the 9th February last I dwelt upon our duty to work out the details of the scheme and fill in the frame-work of the new constitution. This work, as the Premier said, must not be left to the bureaucracy but must be conducted on the direct responsibility of politicians. So committees have to be appointed. I would ask the Home Member to enlighten us on this point.

One word more, and I have done. The Hon'ble Finance Member has, throughout his speech, referred to the expected improvement in the political situation. We all hope and pray that his expectation may soon be realised, not merely because it might mean an improvement in our finances but because this will mean an era of peace and goodwill.

To-day, the day of days, all India is hoping and praying that we may be so enlightened that we can come to an honourable peace and that India may come out of her agony and suffering, shining and radiant with the glory of the wondrous dawn of Freedom.

5 p.m.

Mr. NARENDRA KUMAR BASU: In his speech introducing the budget, the Hon'ble Finance Member has made several diatribes against the civil disobedience movement and it seemed to him that the two reasons for the thinness of the revenue last year and the present year are, firstly, the world trade depression and, secondly, the civil disobedience movement. But, Sir, as is well known to lawyers, truth will out sometimes even in an affidavit; and on page 9 of his speech, the Hon'ble Finance Member has let the truth out when he says that "even if the expected improvement in the political situation does come about and the peaceful elements among the people are suffered to go about their lawful avocations without let or hindrance from the partizans of Congress, their buying power has been so much reduced that we cannot expect them to contribute to a very substantial rise in revenue." Therefore, the real reason for the thinness of revenue is not either the world depression in trade primarily or the civil disobedience, but the impoverishment of the people. Sir, as is well-known to you and to all members of this House, our people in this country, especially in Bengal, are very poor. In fact, according to the Simon Committee, the most optimistic estimate of the average income of an Indian is Rs. 100 a year, while the average in England is about £95. Even this depth of poverty has been made deeper by the policy of Government and the purchasing power of the people is absolutely gone so that with rice and other edibles at a lower figure, the people can hardly afford to have half a meal a day.

I think it is the bounden duty of Government to make as much economy as possible. But if you consider the budget, do you really find any attempt at economy? You will find that whatever economy is there, it is in what are called the transferred departments. So far as the reserved subjects are concerned, especially in the General administration, the Jails and the Police, there is absolutely no attempt at any retrenchment. So far as the General administration is concerned, will the Hon'ble Finance Member say whether any serious attempt was made to economise in the pay and allowances that are drawn by Government officers. I am sure that the pay that is drawn by the higher officials of Government is five times as much as they would have drawn if they had stood a little higher in the Civil Service examinations and got into the Home Civil Service. Having stood lower in the examination they came out to India and they draw five times as much as their fellow officers in England. Has there been any attempt to cut down local allowances? Has there been any attempt to stop migrations to the hills year after year? You will find in the present budget any amount of allowance for migration to the hills. Is this the time that Government officers should run up to the hills leaving the poor people to die in the plains? The budget also will show that the three departments—the General administration, the Jails and the Police—are responsible for over 390 lakhs of rupees. I submit that the spending of Rs. 390 lakhs in this poor country of ours over these departments is absolutely criminal. Sir, it has often been said that we non-official members always cry out against the police and that we are quite unreasonable in doing so. Has the Government ever stopped to consider why the people in this country cry out against the police? After all law and order cannot be more dear to the sojourners in the land than to the natives of the country. Law and order are more important for us than for those who are here for a temporary period of time. If we had to cry out against the police it is because in the name of law and order—and in an accentuated form very lately—they are indulging in barbarous oppression and that in the name of law and order they are acting absolutely unlawfully. Sir, it is well known that in this country the police absolutely terrorises the subordinate magistracy. I will cite an instance. On the 25th of August last a number of young men were arrested in Jessore in connection with what is known as the Jessore Bomb Case. The result, as is well known to the members of this House, has been the discharge of all the accused later on. On the 25th of August the Subdivisional Officer directed the accused to be released on bail. Some of the accused had already executed the bail bond when in came the Superintendent of Police and in the open court began to protest against the order of the Magistrate. He went further and said that how dared he (Magistrate) to allow bail bonds in this case and declared that he would arrest those under a separate charge who had already been allowed on bail as soon as they were out of the precincts of the court. And this was done.

This is how the police terrorise even over the subordinate magistrates. Is it a wonder that the people in this country do not love the police?

5-15 p.m.

It has been stated in the budget by the Finance Member that there has been retrenchment. Yes, call it retrenchment, as I said in the transferred departments. In the jails it is stated that the increase of Rs. 9,49,000 is due to the political situation. If that is so, why has there been an attempt to raise the figure under detenus to Rs. 5,98,000, while according to the revised estimate you spent only Rs. 1,80,000 for detenus in the current year. This year, however, you propose to spend Rs. 5,98,000 for detenus and an increase of Rs. 9,49,000 under jails. The amount of repression in 1931-32 by Government may well be gauged from these two grants aggregating to Rs. 15,47,000. The retrenchments that have been made are only in-

	Rs
Education	5,45,000
Medical	5,72,000
Public Health	3,97,000
Agriculture	1,50,000
Industries	85,000
Total	17,49,000

that is to say, the nation-building departments have already been starved. My friend Mr. S. M. Bose was congratulating the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Medical Department on having got something from the revised estimate of the present year. I am afraid Mr. Bose did not see that the Minister-in-charge had been pleased to surrender in the present year Rs. 3,49,800 as a measure of retrenchment. In reply to a question put by me in this Council the other day regarding the amounts surrendered by the popular Ministers from their respective departments Mr. Marr was pleased to observe that that was a State secret and definitely refused to give an answer. But Mr. Marr himself is guilty of disclosing State secrets, because he says in this paper that a sum of Rs. 3,49,800 was surrendered by the Minister as a measure of retrenchment. Well, the Minister is to be congratulated on having surrendered Rs. 3,49,800 as a measure of economy (A voice: Self-sacrifice). Yes, self-sacrifice on the part of the Hon'ble Minister.

Retrenchments in the transferred departments have left the Ministers simply to go on with routine duties and we ought to be thankful to the Ministers for carrying on the routine duties at a cost of Rs. 1,92,000 year. Several previous speakers have talked of a retrenchment committee on the lines foreshadowed by the Finance Member at Delhi My objection to that is this. Firstly, I am afraid that the retrenchment committee would be more costly than the retrenchments themselves Secondly, from the experience that we have had of the committee presided over by Sir Rajendranath Mukherji, I may say that Government will take steps to see that no recommendation worth giving effect to will ever fructify. Therefore, so far as that committee is concerned my humble suggestion is that if Government can get some members to agree to give their time free to the cause of the country, and if Government give an undertaking that they will act upon such recommendation of the committee as are unanimous, then I think the idea had better be pursued, otherwise not.

Mr. J. CAMPBELL-FORRESTER: Mr. President, Sir, we have an apologetic budget presented to us by the Hon'ble Mr. Marr. He is full of regret at the doleful position, but really I do not see why he should be so pessimistic. The budget is certainly not a good one; but if one looks all over the world, he finds conditions much worse than Bengal. There are several things that I see here in which there has been a saving, namely, Police, Medical, Administration of Justice I wish the Hon'ble Mr. Marr would alter that phrase to "administration of law." I think that those who have had any dealings with the Court would prefer the term. The reduction in the Medical Grant is the one that interests me most, and it is with deep regret that I find there should be a reduction in this. If there is one heading under which there should be continual increase, it is under "Medical Help." Our condition here with the scarcity of medical men should mean continual increase in our hospital and dispensary accommodation Here I must have my annual grouse about the Midnapore Leper Colony. Kant, who discoursed on Psychology, said, "The mind itself before all experience, is possessed of certain inherent forms in virtue of which it sees, or conceives all things, for instance in terms of time and space." Well, Sir, I am convinced he was right—at all events in the case of those in charge of the Leper Colony Scheme. Time is certainly no object here, and I fear that eventually in the great space of time it will be entirely forgotten.

It is over ten years ago since a generous donor gave Rs. 50,000 to the Government to purchase ground for a Leper Colony. I have more or less brought up this matter every year since 1922. After six years they found water, and about two years ago, there were great activities

showing, I thought, that the Government, having got a move on at last, would not be content until it had completed this Colony. Plans were drawn up, estimates were given, and a splendid complete scheme was shown by that esteemed individual, Dr. Muir, but I see nothing budgeted that will bring about the fulfilment of this desirable scheme. If it is not the intention of the Government to carry forward this scheme, then why not openly say so? Then one's thought could be directed into some other channels to deal with this pressing subject, whereby relief could be brought to suffering humanity, and keep the leper beggars off the streets of Calcutta.

Now, Sir, I come to another matter in connection with public health, namely, the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. There is absolutely nothing budgeted for this urgent and important matter. According to the statistics of the Government, nearly 1,00,000 die of this scourge every year, and according to my personal inquiries the number is supposed to exceed this. No pestilence that visits mankind makes anything like the havoc that is wrought by tuberculosis In addition to the enormous destruction of life the amount of suffering which it causes to the patients, and the expenses, trouble and danger it causes around him, makes tuberculosis one of the worst scourges that affects the human race. So far we have not been able to find such pioneers out here as we found in Britain like Sir Malcolm Morris, Sir William Broadbent, Sir Clefford Albutt, Sir Robert Phillip. It was such men as these that forced the British Government to action. There were only about two or three sanatoriums in Great Britain, and only one tuberculosis dispensary about 30 years ago; there are now more than 300 sanatoriums and hospitals, and more than 500 tuberculosis dispensaries. That is what active propaganda did for Britain, and I plead for similar action in Bengal. We have had one splendid instance of a philanthropic agency. The trustees of a private donor started a hospital near Calcutta eight years ago, and by their efforts and experience have gained much knowledge and done good work. In almost any place where there is fresh air and sunlight, the treatment of tuberculosis can be carried on successfully. About three years ago, the Government granted to the Jadavpur Hospital for Tuberculosis Rs. 1,00,000. They have done wonderful work with this money. While the patients have got a roof to cover their heads, they want ground to walk about, and work in. The area must be sufficient to prevent secondary infection. The residents must also be protected from the patients. Hence all institutions in Europe have provided large area round their buildings. This institution has only been able to acquire up till now 20 bighas of land: 40 more bighas are required for exercise of the patients, also quarters for nurses, servants, etc. Money is wanted, badly wanted now. The Members of the Government can find it if they wish. I plead with them to do so.

There is another matter that I wish to call attention to before I sit down, and that is the Barrackpore Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The Society's policy is an excellent one, and is doing splendid work. Its first object is to take care of the animal first, ascertain whether the owner is merely ignorant or wilfully brutal; and then to decide whether a warning or a prosecution is advisable. The main asset of this branch is a travelling dispensary, which, haunting the highway, gives first aid free to the suffering or injured.

This Society has been perfectly independent up till now, but owing to the present hard times, it is passing through great financial difficulties, and has applied to the Government for a grant of at least Rs. 1,000 as a commencement, which I believe it has promised. I appeal to the Government on behalf of these deserving institutions. No individual will object to increase of expenditure on such worthy objects.

5-30 p.m.

Statement in the Press on the Hon'ble the President's rulings as to disallowing motion for adjournment.

Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Mr. President, Sir, as one of the juniormost members of this House, I have no knowledge—nor have I cared to know up till now—of the etiquette which should be observed in regard to the proceedings of this House. I understand that by publishing a statement in the Press regarding the adjournment motion of which I gave notice I have offended the dignity of this House. I felt very keenly on the matter and so I published the statement in the Press without fully considering the matter. If I had any idea that I was acting wrongly, I would not have published that statement. Had I known all this, which I now learn from my friends and advisers, I would certainly not have acted as I have done. With these words of apology I should like to say a few words about the budget.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Before I allow you to speak on the budget, I think it is desirable that I should say that I very much appreciate the spirit which has prompted you to offer an apology to this House for having rushed into print in regard to a ruling of the Chair. Your advisers were perfectly right when they pointed out to you that it was

really a serious breach of parliamentary etiquette, and I was really surprised that you rushed into print instead of raising the question on the floor of the House. It is not right for any member to question the ruling of the Chair; but it is within his right, when he is not convinced, to request the President to throw further light on his ruling. It is the President's privilege to give rulings, and it is a member's privilege to give the President an opportunity to convince all about the soundness of his rulings. I think so because I always give rulings with the best of motives and with a view to serve the best interests of members which I always have at heart. (Hear, hear.) I do not want to take you to task for all what you have written in newspapers, although it is in my power to reprimand you. Only the other day, when we first got access to this new Council Chamber, to exercise our legitimate rights and privileges, I appealed to you all to combine with me to establish parliamentary traditions in this House, and I was really very much surprised that so soon after that you should be found guilty of a serious breach of parliamentary etiquette. I am glad, however, that you have realised your mistake and are prepared to acknowledge t

I should now like to say a few words about the ruling itself, as by your silence about it, on the floor of the House, you have left me absolutely unheard by the members of this House and also by the general public beyond our walls to whom you have given your version of the case. You will remember that when you gave notice of the Adjournment Motion, I met you in my Chamber and I told you that your reasons were meagre and that you should come forward with more illuminating facts. I gave you four days to collect your materials. When you met me again, I put several questions to you and I asked you to answer them fully. I asked if the mills were outside or within their private rights in dismissing their employees, and whether you had any justification in ascribing unworthy motives to Government, or in thinking that it was in any way instrumental in causing the Indian Jute Mills Association to pass the resolution, which you characterised as "ingenious." I also asked if you could suggest how Government was in a position to interfere when the mill owners were exercising their private rights and what remedy really lay in its hands. I further asked if you could show that the situation really endangered public peace or public health. You should remember that you could not satisfactorily answer any of these questions, or definitely deny that most of the discharged labourers had gone back to their homes and the mills were peacefully doing their normal business. You left me under the impression that you would withdraw the motion—you said you would consult your friends about it; but, instead of doing that you sprung a surprise on me by rushing into print. Nevertheless, I am glad that you have come forward with a graceful apology, and that all has ended so happily.

Budget Discussion.

General discussion of the Budget of the Government of Bengal for 1931-32 was then resumed.

Maulvi SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY: Sir, I have read and re-read with all possible care and attention all the figures of the budget, both on the receipt and the expenditure side. I have also attempted to read the proceedings of the Council since the beginning of the Reforms and particularly the budget discussion of the last ten years. If ever I have found anywhere anything uninteresting, useless, meaningless and lifeless, I have found it here. Sir, I shall not murmur about the starvation of the nation-building departments; nor shall I grudge the increased grants to the Police Department, the most pampered department of Government, the budget of which is gradually swelling up. Neither shall I offer any suggestion to the Hon'ble the Finance Member, because, Sir, to me it seems all useless, as we cannot expect to get milk out of stone. Sir, many are the suggestions and advices which have been offered to the Finance Member, many are the voices of resentment and protest that have been raised during the last ten years, but the Hon'ble the Finance Member is sitting tight as ever in his place and doing nothing. Sir, all the members of this House—Hindus and Muhammadans, Indians and Europeans—are unanimous in condemning the Meston Settlement as being outrageous, but I ask very seriously of the Hon'ble Finance Member what determined effort he or his department has done to modify or adjust that Settlement. He has done nothing. He will perhaps say that he cannot do anything, as this is a matter concerning the Central Government. Sir, as I have said at the outset, I shall not say anything about the Police budget, because I am really afraid of the police, not because they break the skulls and limbs of innocent persons, but because I am afraid that it will at once set the back of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the department against us. Sir, in this connection if anybody mentions that the people are starving, that 70,000 mill-hands—if my figure is correct—are starving, section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code will at once be promulgated That mighty section is in force in almost all the mill areas in and outside Calcutta. It can stop people from speaking their minds, but it cannot check the hunger of the starving millions; and in this connection, Sir, I should like to sound a note of warning to the Member in charge of the Police Department that the day is very near when they will have to pay for it. How long do they want or expect to check the activities of the people by section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, or other sections like it?

Sir, I heard yesterday hon'ble members complaining about the insufficiency of the grants to the transferred departments. It is the

usual cry with them that the nation-building departments do not get sufficient funds, but all the same the Ministers are there drawing Rs. 1,92,000 a year. Sir, I would submit that this amount of Rs. 1,92,000 can go a long way towards giving relief to the poor people of Bengal, who suffer from malaria, kala-azar and other diseases, and particularly to the agriculturists.

5-45 p.m.

In spite of the good will of the Ministers for the welfare of the people they cannot do anything for the departments under their portfolio. They say that their hands are tied and that they have not sufficient money to do all these things. It is for this reason, Sir, that I feel it is quite unnecessary to indulge in this general discussion on the budget. I would rather ask the Hon'ble Finance Member to allot the two days that are now allotted for this purpose to the discussion of matters of urgent public importance, I mean resolutions and other subjects, because we have ample time and ample opportunity to discuss the budget in connection with individual items of the budget on different occasions.

Sir, I will finish my remarks by saying a few words about the Excise Department. I think all members, on this side of the House at least, will agree with me and will congratulate the civil disobedience movement—if not for anything else, at least for this reason, that it has helped to check the revenue coming from the Excise Department. Sir, I have read and heard times without number suggestions from the hon'ble members of this House about the total prohibition of intoxicating drugs and other excisable articles; or that at least experiments be started in a particular district or districts with reference to prohibition, but, Sir, no heed has been paid by Government in that direction. Sir, I would not admire the optimism of the Hon'ble Finance Member in hoping to get more money from this department in the next year; on the contrary I may assure him that if things are allowed to continue in this department as they are now, far from getting the revenue he expects from Excise he will get one big zero! Sir, we all expect some settlement to-night, but even if a settlement be arrived at between Mahatma Gandhi and His Excellency Lord Irwin to-night, the people of Bengal, Hindus and Moslems, will continue their vigilance with regard to drinking and do what they did last year regarding the consumption of intoxicating liquors and other drugs in this province. We feel it our bounden duty to eradicate this evil or at least to check it as far as possible. We are trying to make India a thoroughly dry country like America, and we should not be lazy in exerting all possible influence in checking this evil of drinking.

Now I will add a few words about the Police whom I have characterised as a pampered department of Government. The Hon'ble

Member in charge of the Police is not here now, otherwise I would draw his attention to the fact that even this year—a year of famine and distress due to the general trade depression and particularly to jute—a sort of gambling is going on in Calcutta and thereby ruining hundreds of families in Calcutta. This matter has been brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, and even cases have been reported to the Chief Presidency Magistrate, but I am sorry to say that there has not been any action on the part of the Police in Bengal to take this opportunity and do away with this evil of gambling, which violates the Gambling Act in the heart of the city of Calcutta.

Sir, another thing to which I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police is one of which I must speak with shame and which is one of the gifts of the Britisher to India, is the increasing number of prostitutes in Calcutta. This will be borne out by any gentleman who walks along the streets of Calcutta. Every year the number of these women is swelling up; and this evil, particularly in Calcutta, is one of the gifts which have come from the British within the last 100 or 150 years. Sir, there is a clear section in the Police Act not to allow them to come out of their respective houses, but I have seen them with my own eyes in many places make ugly gestures to passers-by in the presence of big police officers without any punishment or even without a reprimand of any kind.

To-day I will not mention anything about the excesses committed by the Police in Calcutta or in other districts of Bengal, but will reserve my comments for a more suitable opportunity.

In conclusion I would draw the attention of the Finance Member that something should be done for the primary education of the illiterate people of Bengal, about which a few months ago so much exhibition of power and so much fuss was made and for which a Bill in the teeth of all opposition was passed. With these words I resume my seat.

Babu SATYENDRA KUMAR DAS: Mr. President, Sir, I was a silent listener to the budget debate yesterday and although I feel that my participation in the discussion will not contribute to the solution of the various problems connected with the budget, I consider it my duty to say a few words on behalf of the constituency which I have the honour to represent in this House and whose interests, I find, are not likely to be served by the budget estimates as presented by the Hon'ble Finance Member to this Council.

A general survey of the next year's budget reveals the fact that no increased provision has been made for the nation-building departments, by which I mean the departments of Education and Public Health. There is no provision also for Irrigation works in my district

which required immediate attention. I am sorely disappointed to find that no mention has been made of the Dolai Khal canalisation scheme about which I moved a resolution the other day. The fitful dredging and bandalling operations that were carried out in the past in the Buriganga and Dhaleswari have proved to be of little benefit and unless these operations are done systematically for some years without break, the money so far spent will be wasted. The river Dhaleswari, no doubt, showed signs of improvement after the dredging of 1926-27, but this year its condition has become worse; and I do not know how can the Irrigation Department remain silent over these matters and adopt a policy of drift to the utter detriment of public interest.

Having joined the Council in the middle of March last year, I had not the privilege of examining the budget estimates for the current year and as such I could not make any observations on the current year's budget. Neither in this year's budget nor in that of the next year the question of river training has received due attention of Government. While funds are not wanting in carrying on the top-heavy administration of Government, in finding suitable accommodation for the guardians of law and order and for other purposes not calculated to benefit the people, it is strange that the retrenchment axe should be applied to the desirable schemes that have been pending for years and which now find a comfortable resting place in the musty archives of the Bengal Secretariat.

Sir, it is not my intention to criticise the Hon'ble Members of the Treasury Bench for the sake of criticism, but I desire to draw their attention to the grievances of the people and to show them how essential works of public utility are being delayed from year to year for reasons best known to them. I fully realise that the present year is one of exceptional difficulty on account of trade depression and the civil disobedience movement, but may I inquire what was done all these years to give effect to the long-pending schemes? The provisions for Police and Jails have been kept intact on the supposition that the civil disobedience movement may continue. It was in the August session of the Council that an additional sum of Rs. 23,96,000 was voted to meet unforeseen expenditure on Jails (Rs. 10,43,000), Police (Rs. 8,78,000) and Civil Works (Rs. 4,75,000) but could not a supplementary demand be made in the next session of the Council in case of emergency instead of making similar provisions under those heads in the budget presented to us? Sir, it should be considered whether or not such provisions are now wholly unnecessary in view of the peace negotiations now going on at Delhi as a result of which normal conditions will, it is hoped, be restored at no distant date.

Coming now to the Education grant, I notice with regret that no increased grant has been provided. In the current year, grants to some aided schools and non-Government arts colleges as originally

contemplated have been withheld, not on the ground of financial stringency, but on other grounds of which the Hon'ble Minister is well aware. The difficulties of non-Government institutions are too well known to require any detailed mention. They have been hard hit by the boycott campaign which characterised the earlier days of the civil disobedience movement. The income of these institutions has considerably dwindled down on account of a fall in their fee incomes. On the top of that came the fiat of the Education Department stopping all grants to these schools and colleges. We expected a more sympathetic treatment of educational institutions but we are sorely disappointed.

6 p.m.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: I feel it is useless to discuss the general budget in the absence of 60 per cent. of the Ministry and half of the Executive Council. After all, these discussions are for the enlightenment of the Treasury Bench; and if the Treasury Bench have got reasons and justification to absent themselves, I cannot help thinking that responsible Government in this province is more or less a farce.

The Hon'ble Mr. W. D. R. PRENTICE: Sir, we leave Secretaries here to take notes when we are absent.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: In the first place I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Member that while he has presented a most depressing budget, he has offered no justification for remedy in future. In the year 1920-21 when we first got responsible Government, we began with an opening balance of Rs. 4,20,000. I will not take the figure of that year for the purpose of this debate, but two years after when the financial position was adjusted to certain expenditure under the Meston Settlement, that is in the year 1924-25 we had Rs. 1,30,00,000 in our surplus. Since then year after year our surplus has dwindled down and to-day we have got to balance our revenue with our expenditure somehow and for the next year we have no fixed purpose in view as to what we are going to do. Sir, if the Hon'ble Finance Member were a private gentleman instead of the Finance Member of this Government, I feel very much he would have been prosecuted for having dwindled away the surplus like this. Now the position of Bengal during the last ten years up to to-day has been very unfortunate. We have always drawn upon our revenue much more than we could collect. I find that from the year 1923-24 up to the year 1931-32 our gross revenue has been between 10 crores, 50 lakhs to 11 crores and our normal expenditure has been about Rs. 115 crores and yet no suggestion has been made as to what should be done in this matter.

I will draw the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Member to another aspect of the matter. My hon'ble friend, Mr. S. M. Bose, said that as the Hon'ble Finance Member hails from Aberdeen he has a very stony heart. But I think that instead of a stony heart he has got a very soft heart—at least for certain departments. Otherwise how is it that the establishment charges in some of the departments has been increased in spite of a lean year? I find in the figures under "Excise" that these charges have been increased from Rs. 155 crores to Rs. 226 crores, and under "Forest" from Rs. 137 lakhs to Rs. 305 lakhs. Under "Justice" it is almost the same with just a little increment in order, I think, to meet the annual increments in pay. Under the head "Police" there is an increase from Rs. 166 lakhs to Rs. 210 lakhs. However, I do not question that there is necessity at times to strengthen the Police force, but I submit that things have come to such a pass that we must seriously consider whether there should be any retrenchment in the Police Department as in every other department.

With these few remarks I come to the Irrigation Department. There are certain points in the budget which I hope the Irrigation Secretary will be able to explain. Sir, in the Irrigation Department there is a division called the Dredger Division with its legacy of three dredgers from Addams-Williams who has at last left the country, and I must congratulate all the Members of Government and particularly the Hon'ble Irrigation Minister for having got rid of him at last. The establishment charges in the Dredger Division is Rs. 1 lakh? This alone is for establishment charges. Out of these dredgers we got nothing and yet we have to pay a bill of Rs. 1,10,000 for their establishment charges. But, Sir, here I am afraid there is certain jugglery of figures. There is one item of Rs. 29,000, another item of Rs. 5,000, another of Rs. 3,000, under the head "Irrigation." In other words, the total establishment charges as shown in the budget under this head is only Rs. 29,000, whereas under the general establishment charges the Dredger Division is shown as responsible for Rs. 1,10,000. I have not been able to understand how this jugglery has been brought about. I think some of these expenditure have been shown under the Dredger Division and some under another division. Any way so far as this particular item is concerned, the establishment charges have been abnormally high. One of the dredgers has now been sent to the Andamans and the other dredgers are lying idle and yet this year these dredgers without doing any work are going to cost us Rs. 1,10,000. This is a very serious position indeed. From the financial point of view, I hope that all the dredgers may be sent to the Andamans and after their work there, they may get sunk in the Bay of Bengal instead of being brought back. I think my hon'ble friend, Mr. S. M. Bose, was not correct when he said that our interest charges were alone Rs. 7,25,000. I may point out to him that our charges under that head is Rs. 11,71,000 out of the total irrigation expenditure.

May I ask what has become of Sir William Willcock's scheme? We know that there has been a standing committee and though it was possible for Sir William Willcock to attend this standing committee, it was not possible for the Hon'ble Minister to bring Mr. Addams-Williams to that standing committee and confront him with Sir William Willcock. May I ask what has been the result of the great controversy which raised round Sir William Willcock last year? So much for irrigation.

Now about agriculture. At the outset I must congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for having succeeded in closing the Jute Sale Societies because I am afraid if they had continued for another year, there would have been a terrible situation for Bengal to face. The liabilities of these societies would have been very much more than they are at present. With these remarks I may be allowed to go a little more into details of the Agricultural Department activities. Last time while I was speaking on this subject, the guillotine came and I could not draw the attention of the House to the problem of water-hyacinth. Sir, on the last occasion I had been to Dacca I took the opportunity of visiting the agricultural farm at Manipur and I found a huge number of water-hyacinth being kept there I did not know for what purpose. I was told, however, that certain researches were being carried on with them. Sir, I am very glad that in the Ministry there are members from Eastern Bengal as this water-hyacinth affects Eastern Bengal much more than it does here in Western Bengal. But with all that I find that no steps have been taken to meet the appalling situation in East Bengal or for the matter of that in the whole province. We know that in the year 1919-20 the Deputy Director of Eastern Circle was making experiments with water-hyacinth with a view to eradicating this pest. But that was subsequently discontinued. Next year we were told that isolatory experiments were useless as the water-hyacinth has spread over the whole province and that they were making experiments with a view to taking concerted action. Last year up till now the intention of the Agricultural Department in this matter is unknown to us. In 1920 a committee sat to advise Government in regard to this matter. The object was to find out means for eradicating this pest as it constituted national danger. Next year Griffith's Spray was procured at an enormous cost. An officer was placed on special duty for this work and in 1924-25 we were told that experiments were made with this spray but that it had been found to be dangerous to human life. Probably it was found to be outside the scope of the Agricultural Department which advised the people to collect water-hyacinth wherever found and burn them. In 1925-26 it was found out that the problem was too big for the Agricultural Department to solve. Probably we shall be told now that the problem is too big for Bengal alone as the water-hyacinth has spread over the province of Assam and that a joint action between the two provinces should be undertaken in order to

eradicate this pest. Sir, this is how the Agricultural Department has proceeded so far as the water-hyacinth problem is concerned. In 1920 the result of the work was said to be not very educative, and in 1920-21 the work was abandoned. In 1921-22 the farm soils of ten places were analysed. I wonder if members of this House have an opportunity of seeing some of the soils. It will be interesting to note that the cultivators do not require any analysis of the soil, as they are either barren or waterlogged, and it would be a costly affair. Anyway, the farm soil was analysed, and then in 1923-24 the work was abandoned, as the report of the Agricultural Chemist was that it was a huge task. Last year just before budget time Mr. Finlow, the Director of Agriculture, went to Krishnagar and suggested that young men should be enlisted with a view to being trained in Agriculture. You will be surprised to hear, Sir, that six months after Mr. Finlow had been there Government thought that it was not possible for the Agriculture Department to take up the work.

(Here the member having reached the time-limit was permitted to continue for a minute more.)

Anyway, I submit, Sir, that so far as the education of *bhadralok* young men is concerned the Agriculture Department has not been able to take up the work.

[At 6-15 p.m. the Council was adjourned for prayer.]

Adjournment.

The Council reassembled at 6-30 p.m., but there being no quorum, the Council was adjourned till 3 p.m. on Tuesday, the *17th March, 1931, at the Council House, Calcutta

* Next series of meetings commenced on the 16th March, 1931.

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